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Local, A3

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Upton faces local GOP backlash

Area leaders sign letter protesting vote to impeach; Allegan moves to censure

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

Several prominent local Republican leaders have publicly voiced their displeasure at U.S. Rep. Fred Upton and his vote to impeach former President Donald Trump.

The criticism directed at the St. Joseph congressman has come in the form of a letter written by the chairman of the Republican Party for the 6th District, as well as a resolution by the Allegan County GOP to censure Upton for his vote.

The Allegan County Republican Party condemned Upton's vote to impeach Trump during its convention on Jan. 21.

"We believe Congressman Upton's vote is a betrayal of his oath of office and the core values of the Allegan County Republican Party," the committee's resolution stated. "We believe this vote ignored the voice of the voters in Allegan County and was against their interest."

UPTON

Upton was among 10 House Republicans who voted in favor of impeachment, charging the former president for his role in instigating the mob of Trump loyalists who stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 and threatened lawmakers.

A censure is considered a symbolic act of disapproval.

Victor Fitz, chairman for the 6th District's Republican Party, said these types of censures occur periodically since local parties have more independence and don't require approval of a state party.

The Allegan County GOP's resolution said that many county residents attended the rally where Trump spoke on Jan. 6, and that the thousands had gathered to "peacefully petition their government" regarding the 2020 election.

The resolution blames the "liberal media," Democrats and "self-serving 'Republicans'" for misleading the public by saying Trump incited the violence at Capitol Hill.

In response to the backlash, Upton said he stands by his decision and has reached out to different members to hear their complaints.

"I always said I'd support President Trump when I agreed with him and disagree when I thought he was wrong," Upton said in an emailed statement. "Congress should not tolerate any effort to impede the peaceful transfer of power. I've gone to bat for Southwest Michigan every day I've been in Congress, bringing jobs, economic growth, and opportunities to our region of the state. And that is exactly what I'm going to keep doing."

The chairpeople for the 6th District Republican Party,

See **BACKLASH**, page A2

ST. JOSEPH

Don Campbell / HP staff

A car drives past damaged and cracked sections of Langley Avenue in St. Joseph Monday afternoon. The road will be reconstructed as part of a major infrastructure project this year in St. Joseph.

City accepts bid for large Langley project

Kalin gets tentative approval for $4.5M reconstruction job

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — The St. Joseph City Commission has tentatively approved awarding the contract for this year's Langley Avenue reconstruction project to Kalin Construction Co. Inc. of Benton Harbor.

City Engineer Tim Zebell explained that the reason the award is tentative is because the method of choosing the general contractor is not typical, as there are multiple funding sources involved.

The contract ultimately will be awarded by the Michigan Department of Transportation, which will administer the project. That is a requirement of the first funding source, the Federal State Transportation Urban Local and Congestion Mitigation Air Quality funds, requires administration through MDOT.

The second funding source, a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund low interest loan, calls for awarding the project contingent upon the loan closing. So MDOT will award the contract to Kalin Construction and the city will enter into an agreement with MDOT, which will be submitted to the city commission for approval at its Feb. 8 meeting.

Kalin's bid for the project came in at $4,530,000. It was the lowest among four bids. The others were Hoffman Bros., Inc., $4,863,074; Selge Construction Co., Inc., $5,738,722; and Kamminga & Roodvoets, Inc., $6,139,496.

Details regarding the various phases of the project, and what residents of the Langley Avenue area need to know, will be provided on the city's website, www.sjcity.com, and by email to residents as the project progresses this spring and summer.

In a related matter, the city commission approved a resolution authorizing the

See **LANGLEY**, page A2

BUCHANAN

Police rescue woman after she crashes into St. Joseph River

Deer caused her to swerve, go over ledge

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

BUCHANAN — A 25-year-old Buchanan woman was saved from icy water Monday morning after her car careened off the road and ended up on its roof in the St. Joseph River in Buchanan Township.

The driver, who was not named by police, was found unbuckled sitting inside the vehicle on the roof in a few inches of water talking on her cell phone with the 911 operator, said city of Buchanan Police Officer Don Leonard, one of the first officers on the scene.

"I was yelling at her through the windows and broke one of them out and she was unable to get out until we got the Jaws of Life there," he said.

Buchanan Police Officer Dave Capron, also one of the first on the scene, said she couldn't get out through the window because the roof was partially caved in.

"It is very fortunate that she was able to find her phone and call 911," Leonard said.

While waiting for the Buchanan Township Fire Department to arrive with the hydraulic rescue tool, he said they tried using a pry bar to get her out, with no luck.

Also on the scene were personnel from the Michigan State Police, the Berrien County Sheriff's Department and the Southwestern Michigan Community Ambulance Service.

Leonard said he's not certain how long the driver was in the water. He said they received the call at 7:29 a.m. and stayed on the scene until the vehicle was removed from the water at 9 a.m. But he said that was after the driver had been taken by ambulance to Lakeland Hospital in Niles.

He said they don't know her condition.

"Once they got her out of the water, she was able to walk on her own and walked to the ambulance to warm up," Capron said.

Leonard and Capron said they responded to the scene even though it wasn't in the city limits, which is standard procedure.

"When there's a priority call, when there's life in danger, we respond," Capron said. "It's a very short distance from the city limits."

State trooper Zachary Dorr, who was on the scene, said his agency took over the investigation once they arrived.

He said the driver was traveling on East River Road when she swerved to avoid a deer and lost control. He said the vehicle hit a utility pole

See **RESCUE**, page A2

Trump impeachment goes to Senate, testing his sway over GOP

Melina Mara / The Washington Post via AP, Pool

Clerk of the House Cheryl Johnson along with acting House Sergeant-at-Arms Tim Blodgett lead the Democratic House impeachment managers as they walk through the Capitol Hill to deliver to the Senate the article of impeachment alleging incitement of insurrection against former President Donald Trump, in Washington on Monday.

By LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Democrats delivered the impeachment case against Donald Trump to the Senate late Monday for the start of his historic trial, but Republican senators were easing off their criticism of the former president and shunning calls to convict him over the deadly siege at the U.S. Capitol.

It's an early sign of Trump's enduring sway over the party.

The nine House prosecutors carried the sole impeachment charge of "incitement of insurrection" across the Capitol, making a solemn and ceremonial march to the Senate along the same halls the rioters ransacked just weeks ago. But Republican denunciations of Trump have cooled since the Jan. 6 riot. Instead Republicans are presenting a tangle of legal arguments against the legitimacy of the trial and questions whether Trump's repeated demands to overturn Joe Biden's election really amounted to incitement.

What seemed for some Democrats like an open-shut case that played out for the world on live television, as Trump encouraged a rally mob to "fight like hell" for his presidency, is running into a Republican Party that feels very differently. Not only are there legal concerns, but senators are wary of crossing the former president and his legions of followers who are their voters. Security remains tight at the Capitol.

Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, said if Congress starts holding impeachment trials of former officials, what's next: "Could we go back and try President Obama?"

Besides, he suggested, Trump has already been held to account. "One way in our system you get punished is losing an election."

Arguments in the Senate trial will begin the week of Feb. 8, and the case against Trump, the first former president to face impeachment trial, will test a political party still sorting itself out for the post-Trump era. Republican senators are balancing the demands of deep-pocketed donors who are distancing themselves from Trump and voters who demand loyalty to him. One Republican, Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio, announced Monday he would not seek reelection in 2022 citing the polarized political atmosphere.

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The Newspaper for Southwest Michigan

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BACKLASH

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consisting of representatives from all the counties within Upton's congressional district, collectively wrote a letter to party members reflecting their thoughts on the impeachment.

"It pains us to see that our own Congressman Fred Upton voted to impeach," the letter read. "Fred has been a leader for many years in the 6th District. He has done many good things for Southwest Michigan. He is a friend to each of us. We will continue to work with our Congressman. Unity demands it. But for the reasons stated here today, we disagree with his vote."

The letter was signed at the bottom by each county chair within the GOP, including Fitz – who chairs the entire district.

When contacted by The Herald-Palladium, Fitz estimated that around 90 percent of Republicans in the district oppose Upton's vote to impeach.

"I respect Fred. I've worked with him for many years. Fred has done a lot of good things for Michigan and the country," Fitz said. "But in that light, there was an extremely strong reaction from our membership on the impeachment. Fred and I have spoken about it, and I expressed I disagreed with it."

The letter also stated it found the breach at the Capitol to be "extremely disturbing and threatening" to the country's democracy.

Fitz, who is the prosecutor for Cass County, said the local Republican membership was asking for action and a response.

After a meeting among the district party chairs and a representative from Upton's office, Fitz said leadership spent the next few days discussing what would be the best response.

"We've never done anything like this before. Nothing as ever risen to this level of sensitivity," Fitz said. "I know (Upton) voted his conscience and did what he thought was right. But there was a lack of due process and a lack of fact-finding. It appeared to us to be a rush in judgment. Our objective was to let the local party know where its leaders stood on the issue."

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Photo provided / MSP Capt. Randy Miller

A 25-year-old Buchanan woman was rescued by police Monday morning after she swerved to avoid a deer, sending her car over a ledge into the St. Joseph River, off East River Road near Buchanan. The woman was taken to the hospital and treated for non life-threatening injuries.

RESCUE

From page A1

and two trees before going off a ledge and into the river.

"I'm thankful that she clipped a tree before she went into the water. Otherwise, she might have gone out farther," Dorr said.

He said the driver's injuries appeared to not be life threatening.

In a state police news release, motorists are reminded not to swerve if they encounter a deer or other animals on the road.

"Instead of swerving, just slow down as quickly and safely as you can," the release stated. "Swerving to avoid an animal can put you at risk for hitting another vehicle or losing control of your car. It can also confuse the animal as to which way to go. Your odds for surviving an accident are better when hitting an animal than when hitting another car or object."

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LOTTERIES

Monday drawings

Michigan
Poker Lotto
AH-QS-4C-10D-2H
Midday Daily 3
2-7-9
Midday Daily 4
2-4-9-3
Daily 3
1-3-7
Daily 4
7-9-4-3
Fantasy 5
01-10-19-20-38
Estimated jackpot
$100,000
Keno
03-06-11-12-20-21-26-29-31-32-43-47-48-49-52-55-61-64-66-73-76-79
Mega Millions jackpot
$20 million
Powerball jackpot
$20 million

Sunday drawings

Indiana
Cash 5
03-08-36-42-43
Estimated jackpot
$456,000
Cash4Life
11-25-40-53-59, Cash Ball: 4
Quick Draw Midday
08-10-11-14-23-25-26-27-29-35-36-44-54-62-64-65-66-70-71-79, BE: 36
Daily Three-Midday
1-4-7, SB: 5
Daily Three-Evening
6-3-0, SB: 6
Daily Four-Midday
8-6-5-9, SB: 5
Daily Four-Evening
5-7-4-3, SB: 6
Quick Draw Evening
07-12-23-24-26-27-36-41-47-48-56-59-60-62-63-64-67-70-75-80, BE: 80

Illinois
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
03-16-35-43-44
Estimated jackpot
$100,000
Pick Three-Midday
6-9-4, Fireball: 7
Pick Three-Evening
6-3-6, Fireball: 8
Pick Four-Midday
4-3-9-8, Fireball: 0
Pick Four-Evening
0-9-2-0, Fireball: 2
Lucky Day Lotto
12-20-22-29-31
Estimated jackpot
$150,000

– The Associated Press

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LANGLEY

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issuance of 2021 Water Supply System Junior Lien Revenue Bonds to fund the water distribution system improvements portion of the Langley Avenue project.

The bonds will be issued through the state's low-interest Drinking Water State Revolving Fund in an amount not to exceed $2.6 million, at 2.125 percent interest for 30 years. Debt payments are expected to begin next fiscal year and will be made from the revenues of the City Water Fund.

The water system improvements portion of the Langley Avenue project will include replacing and improving water mains, replacement of fire hydrants, replacement of service lines and the restoration of streets, sidewalks, rights-of-way and easements affected by the work.

Don Campbell / HP staff

Traffic heads down Langley Avenue in St. Joseph on Monday.

In another matter, commissioners approved the five-year Parks and Recreation Master Plan as presented earlier at public hearings and recommended for city commission approval by the city's Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

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IMPEACHMENT

From page A1

For Democrats the tone, tenor and length of the upcoming trial, so early in Biden's presidency, poses its own challenge, forcing them to strike a balance between their vow to hold Trump accountable and their eagerness to deliver on the new administration's priorities following their sweep of control of the House, Senate and White House.

Biden himself told CNN late Monday that the impeachment trial "has to happen." While acknowledging the effect it could have on his agenda, he said there would be "a worse effect if it didn't happen."

Biden said he didn't think enough Republican senators would vote for impeachment to convict, though he also said the outcome might well have been different if Trump had six months left in his term.

In a Monday evening scene reminiscent of just a year ago – Trump is now the first president twice impeached – the lead prosecutor from the House, this time Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland, stood before the Senate to read the House resolution charging "high crimes and misdemeanors."

Earlier, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer said failing to conduct the trial would amount to a "get-out-jail-free card" for other officials accused of wrongdoing on their way out the door.

Republicans appear more eager to argue over trial process than the substance of the impeachment case against Trump, he said, perhaps to avoid casting judgment on the former president's "role in fomenting the despicable attack" on the Capitol.

He said there's only one question "senators of both parties will have to answer before God and their own conscience: Is former President Trump guilty of inciting an insurrection against the United States?"

On Monday, it was learned that Chief Justice John Roberts is not expected to preside at the trial, as he did during Trump's first impeachment, potentially affecting the gravitas of the proceedings. The shift is said to be in keeping with protocol because Trump is no longer in office.

Instead, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D- Vt., who serves in the largely ceremonial role of Senate president pro-tempore, is set to preside.

Leaders in both parties agreed to a short delay in the proceedings that serves their political and practical interests, even as National Guard troops remain at the Capitol amid security threats on lawmakers ahead of the trial.

The start date gives Trump's new legal team time to prepare its case, while also providing more than a month's distance from the passions of the bloody riot. For the Democratic-led Senate, the intervening weeks provide prime time to confirm some of Biden's key Cabinet nominees.

Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., questioned how his colleagues who were in the Capitol that day could see the insurrection as anything other than a "stunning violation" of the nation's history of peaceful transfers of power.

"It is a critical moment in American history," Coons said Sunday in an interview.

An early vote to dismiss the trial probably would not succeed, given that Democrats now control the Senate. The House approved the charge against Trump on Jan. 13 with 10 Republicans joining the Democrats.

Still, the mounting Republican opposition to the proceedings indicates that many GOP senators will eventually vote to acquit Trump. Democrats would need the support of 17 Republicans – a high bar – to convict him.

One by one, Republican senators are explaining their objections to the unprecedented trial and scoffing at the idea of trying to convict Trump now that he's no longer in office.

Rand Paul of Kentucky said that without the chief justice presiding the proceedings are a "sham." Joni Ernst of Iowa said that while Trump "exhibited poor leadership," it's those who assaulted the Capitol who "bear the responsibility." New Sen. Tommy Tuberville of Alabama said Trump is one of the reasons he is in the Senate, so "I'm proud to do everything I can for him."

Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., is among those who say the Senate does not have the constitutional authority to convict a former president.

Democrats reject that argument, pointing to an 1876 impeachment of a secretary of war who had already resigned and to opinions by many legal scholars. Democrats also say that a reckoning of the first invasion of the Capitol since the War of 1812, perpetrated by rioters egged on by a president as Electoral College votes were being tallied, is necessary to ensure such a siege never happens again.

A few GOP senators have agreed with Democrats, though not close to the number that will be needed to convict Trump.

Mitt Romney of Utah said he believes "what is being alleged and what we saw, which is incitement to insurrection, is an impeachable offense. ... If not, what is?" Romney was the only Republican senator to vote for conviction when the Senate acquitted Trump in his first impeachment trial.

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The Herald-Palladium

hp LOCAL & STATE

Lakeland COVID-19 hospitalizations continue to fall

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

BENTON TOWNSHIP — COVID-19 hospitalizations at Spectrum Health Lakeland continued to fall over the weekend.

The hospital system reported having 22 patients admitted Monday morning. That's down from 40 patients last Monday.

In addition, Berrien County recorded 106 new COVID-19 cases over Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Last weekend the county had recorded 119 new cases.

During the same three days, the county recorded 118 new recoveries, and five additional COVID-19 deaths.

All five deaths were people over the age of 60, according to the county's COVID-19 data dashboard. This brought the county's confirmed death toll to 196.

With deaths and recoveries, the county is at about 1,357 active COVID-19 cases. That's virtually the same as last Monday's tally of 1,368 active cases, meaning recoveries have not been outpacing new cases.

No new school COVID-19 outbreaks were reported in Berrien, Cass or Van Buren counties on Monday by the state. There are also no ongoing outbreaks in any of the three counties. School outbreaks are defined as two or more COVID-19 cases who may have shared exposure on school grounds and are from different households.

Vaccine update

As of Sunday, Berrien County had distributed 9,164 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, with about 800 of those being second doses, according to state figures. That's an additional 3,220 vaccines given since the previous Sunday.

Cass County has given out 1,041 doses of vaccine, as of Sunday, and Van Buren County has administered 4,494 doses.

The Meijer Pharmacy in Benton Township has announced it will have the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine available to seniors on Wednesday and Thursday this week, by appointment only.

Any resident over the age of 65 who would like to receive the vaccine is asked to call 269-934-6710, then press option 5 and option 0, to schedule an appointment, which is dependent on vaccine availability.

For more information and to sign up for future vaccine opportunities through Meijer, visit https://clinic.meijer.com, or text "COVID" to 75049.

In addition, the Spectrum Health Lakeland HouseCalls program began giving out COVID-19 vaccines to home-based senior patients on Monday, according to a Facebook post. HouseCalls is an option for those who have serious or chronic conditions and who are unable to travel to a physician's office or clinic for care.

To set up a HouseCalls visit, call 985-4467. For more information, visit www.spectrumhealthlakeland.org/caring-circle/programs/housecalls.

Long-term care facilities

Only four new resident COVID-19 cases were reported at Berrien, Cass and Van Buren county long-term care facilities last week, according to the state's long-term care facilities report on Monday.

In addition, one new resident death and nine new staff cases were reported.

The four new resident cases, the one death and three of the staff cases were reported at Buchanan Meadows Living Center, which had reported 16 new resident cases the week prior.

The other staff cases were at various facilities in the three counties.

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Don Campbell / HP staff

A new Dunkin' Donuts will soon be opening in the Sonic Drive-In complex in Benton Township, on M-139 near I-94. The same franchisee is also planning to open another location in Bridgman.

Dunkin' Donuts adding locations in Benton Township, Bridgman

Benton location will be next to Sonic Drive-In

By TONY WITTKOWSKI
HP Staff Writer

BENTON TOWNSHIP — Over the next few months two more Dunkin' Donuts are expected to open in Southwest Michigan.

Among them is a Dunkin' Donuts/Baskin-Robbins that will set up shop in the restaurant/retail complex along M-139 in Benton Township.

The new restaurant will be the second tenant to operate out of the complex that houses Sonic Drive-In, at 2680 M-139. Trigo Hospitality owns those lots.

Haresh Patel, a franchisee of Dunkin' Donuts, said construction is now underway, with the goal to have it open by the end of April.

"That area is doing well in retail," he said, regarding the M-139 business corridor. "You have the Arby's that's been busy since opening. It's a good opportunity to get involved."

The new donut and ice cream eatery will anchor the fourth bay in the complex, at the opposite end of the complex from Sonic. Patel said the building will be 2,750 square feet.

Patel said he began looking at the location about a year ago.

The 1.8-acre site, near I-94 exit 28, was built in 2015 and is the site of the former Maxton Motors building. Before Maxton, the site housed a Bill Knapp's restaurant, which opened in 1963 and closed in 2002.

Patel, who owns the Dunkin' locations in St. Joseph and Stevensville, said he is also opening a location at the BP gas station situated along Red Arrow Highway in Bridgman. It will be in the slot previously occupied by a Quiznos.

The Bridgman location is also near an I-94 exit and will be smaller, sitting at about 2,000 square feet.

Both Dunkin' locations will have a drive-thru option and be new concepts as part of the franchise's next generation layout. Patel said these newer locations will have kiosks and different colors.

The openings will be staggered. The opening in Bridgman is planned for March, with Benton Township's opening set for late April.

Patel said construction costs for the Benton Township and Bridgman locations are expected to be $800,000 and $500,000, respectively.

The Dunkin' Donuts in Benton Township will hire 30-40 people, while the Bridgman location will employ 15-20 workers.

Patel owns about 20 Dunkin' Donuts locations in Indiana and Michigan and has plans for more in Southwest Michigan.

"I've had stores in Michigan City and have always loved the beach community," Patel said. "When I got the opportunity to buy the St. Joseph location, I started developing it out after buying the rights. We're hoping to eventually get into New Buffalo. We still haven't found a good location yet, so I'm just patiently waiting."

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Michigan seeks standardized testing waiver for 2020-21 school year

By ANNA LIZ NICHOLS
Associated Press / Report for America

LANSING — Michigan requested on Monday that standardized testing be waived for the 2020-2021 school year, after a school year marked with instruction inconsistency and difficulty due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Michigan Department of Education submitted the request to the U.S. Department of Education to allow schools to prioritize beginning and end of year benchmark assessments to ensure students are on track with their education and pause federally mandated testing.

Michigan can't safely and uniformly administer a fair standardized test, state Superintendent Michael Rice said in the request. Inconsistent internet connection and distracted home environments make online test-taking unfair and accommodations for those with language barriers or disabilities are more difficult to provide during the pandemic.

Last March, as virus cases grew and schools moved online, then-U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos allowed Michigan to waive standardized testing for the 2019-2020 school year. Near the end of her tenure, as waivers were being requested again, she told chief state school officers in a letter that standardized testing is expected for the 2020-2021 school year.

This year, the state will administer benchmark tests to as many students as safely possible, Rice said. Time would be better spent using benchmark tests to help teachers in individual schools to know how to approach classes moving forward at their specific schools.

The Michigan Education Association, which represents about 120,000 teachers and other education professionals, supports waiving standardized testing. MEA President Paula Herbart said in a statement Monday that the federal government and the state Legislature should allow students to catch up on what they might have missed during the pandemic.

"Amidst this pandemic, we simply cannot waste valuable learning time on high-stakes standardized testing," Herbart said. "Mandated standardized testing like the M-STEP does not provide educators the data needed to meet individual student learning needs in real time, which is what we need to be laser focused on right now."

The Every Student Succeeds Act requires 95 percent of eligible students to take standardized tests or states could lose federal funding. Rice said it is unclear when a majority of students would be able to attend in-person

See WAIVER, page A4

South Haven seeks input about downtown 'social district'

By BECKY KARK
For The Herald-Palladium

SOUTH HAVEN — For the past month South Haven Downtown Development Authority Director Sue Brock has been asking downtown merchants about the creation of a "social district."

Some might wonder, what exactly is a social district.

A social district allows restaurants to sell beer to customers in a special container. They then can consume the beverage outside while walking along city-owned sidewalks or open spaces within the social district common area.

"The city is not taking a stance on this. We're just gathering information and informing people," Brock said.

The idea came about in November from Scott Maxwell, owner of Black River Tavern. He said he did so after restaurants were forced to close to indoor dining in November due to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' efforts to curb the spread of coronavirus. Restaurants and bars attract people to the downtown to enjoy a day of shopping and eating, according to Maxwell. But with restaurants being closed to indoor dining, merchants were also suffering economically.

"By allowing customers the opportunity to enjoy food and beverages while they stroll the various shops within the district it's a short-term shot in the arm that is much needed for those simply seeking to survive and a lifeline for other businesses," Maxwell said. "The dining and hospitality industry has done all that's been asked of it for almost a year now and it doesn't seem unreasonable to ask for permission to do something that 23 other communities are doing throughout the state."

Social districts in Michigan became an option last July after Gov. Gretchen Whitmer signed a bill allowing municipalities to create them.

A number of cities jumped on board, including Allegan, Kalamazoo, Vicksburg, Grand Rapids, Muskegon, Battle Creek and Marshall. Whether South Haven will do so remains to be seen.

"We want to do our due diligence," Brock said.

For a social district area to exist, two restaurants or bars that touch the common area have to apply for a permit to allow them to sell beer to customers. The drink would have to be in a specially marked cup. Customers would be allowed to walk, sit on benches or in parkways or shop at stores, but only if the stores have specially marked signs in their window allowing them to do so.

To gather input, Brock has spent the past month discussing the matter with the Downtown Development Authority, the city's Planning Commission, and then last week with the Downtown Association of South Haven.

So far reaction has been mixed.

Kendra Kingsbury, a member of the Downtown Association of South Haven, said she has visited Kalamazoo's Social District several times and favors the idea.

"It's a way for more people to come downtown," she said. When Kingsbury visited downtown Kalamazoo, she said "I stay out and am more active downtown when I've visited. I like to have a drink in hand and shop."

Several downtown restaurant owners who favor the idea said they have observed people already walking around downtown concealing alcoholic beverages in cups or other containers. By creating a district, they reasoned, people would instead have to purchase alcoholic beverages from restaurants or bars within the district.

"I think it will provide for more responsible drinking," said Trent Mulat, another Downtown Association of South Haven member.

See SOCIAL, page A4

Don Campbell / HP file photo

Shoppers walk through South Haven last September. Officials are considering creating a "social district" in the downtown area.

Biden reverses Trump ban on transgender people in military

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

Evan Vucci / AP

Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin listens as President Joe Biden speaks before signing an executive order reversing the Trump-era ban on transgender individuals serving in military, in the Oval Office of the White House on Monday in Washington.

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden signed an order Monday reversing a Trump-era Pentagon policy that largely barred transgender individuals from serving in the military.

The new order, which Biden signed in the Oval Office during a meeting with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin, overturns a ban ordered by President Donald Trump in a tweet during his first year in office. It immediately prohibits any service member from being forced out of the military on the basis of gender identity.

The decision comes as Biden plans to turn his attention to equity issues that he believes continue to shadow nearly all aspects of American life. Ahead of his inauguration, Biden's transition team circulated a memo saying Biden planned to use his first full week as president "to advance equity and support communities of color and other underserved communities."

As he signed the order on Monday, Biden said, "What I'm doing is enabling all qualified Americans to serve their country in uniform."

"America is stronger, at home and around the world, when it is inclusive. The military is no exception," the order says. "Allowing all qualified Americans to serve their country in uniform is better for the military and better for the country because an inclusive force is a more effective force. Simply put, it's the right thing to do and is in our national interest."

The order directs the departments of Defense and Homeland Security to take steps to implement the order for the military and the Coast Guard. And it says they must reexamine the records of service members who were discharged or denied reenlistment due to gender identity issues under the previous policy.

It requires the departments to submit a report to the president on their progress within 60 days.

Austin, in a statement, voiced support for the change and said the Pentagon will work over the next two months to implement the new policy.

"I fully support the President's direction that all transgender individuals who wish to serve in the United States military and can meet the appropriate standards shall be able to do so openly and free from discrimination," said Austin, who also was formally sworn in as defense chief by Vice President Kamala Harris on Monday. "This is the right thing to do. It is also the smart thing to do."

Congress members and advocates hailed the signing.

"This is the triumph of evidence-based policy over discrimination," said Aaron Belkin, the executive director of the Palm Center, which researches and advocates against LGBTQ discrimination. "The inclusive policy will make it easier for trans troops to do their jobs and to fulfill their missions."

The Trump policy triggered a number of lawsuits, including from transgender individuals who wanted to join the military and found themselves blocked.

"It is my highest goal to serve my country in the U.S. military and I've fought this ban because I know that I am qualified to serve," said Nicolas Talbott, an aspiring service member involved in one of the lawsuits. "I'm thrilled and relieved that I and other transgender Americans can now be evaluated solely on our ability to meet military standards. I look forward to becoming the best service member I can be."

Others disagreed. Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, said the move would divert "precious dollars from mission-critical training to something as controversial as gender reassignment surgery."

Under Biden's new policy, transgender servicemembers won't be discharged based on gender identity.

The move to overturn the transgender ban is the latest example of Biden using executive authority in his first days as president to dismantle Trump's legacy. His early actions include orders to overturn a Trump administration ban on travelers from several predominantly Muslim countries, stop construction of the wall at the U.S.-Mexico border, and launch an initiative to advance racial equity.

Until a few years ago service members could be discharged from the military for being transgender, but that changed during the Obama administration. In 2016, Defense Secretary Ash Carter announced that transgender people already serving in the military would be allowed to serve openly. And the military set July 1, 2017, as the date when transgender individuals would be allowed to enlist.

After Trump took office, however, his administration delayed the enlistment date and called for additional study to determine if allowing transgender individuals to serve would affect military readiness or effectiveness.

A few weeks later, Trump caught military leaders by surprise, tweeting that the government wouldn't accept or allow transgender individuals to serve "in any capacity" in the military. "Our military must be focused on decisive and overwhelming victory and cannot be burdened with the tremendous medical costs and disruption that transgender in the military would entail," he wrote.

After a lengthy and complicated legal battle and additional reviews, the Defense Department in April 2019 approved the new policy that fell short of an all-out ban but barred transgender troops and military recruits from transitioning to another sex and required most individuals to serve in what the administration called their "birth gender."

Under that policy, currently serving transgender troops and anyone who had signed an enlistment contract before the effective date could continue with plans for hormone treatments and gender transition if they had been diagnosed with gender dysphoria.

But after that date, no one with gender dysphoria who was taking hormones or has transitioned to another gender was allowed to enlist. Troops that were already serving and were diagnosed with gender dysphoria were required to serve in the gender assigned at birth and were barred from taking hormones or getting transition surgery.

As of 2019, an estimated 14,700 troops on active duty and in the Reserves identify as transgender, but not all seek treatment. Since July 2016, more than 1,500 service members were diagnosed with gender dysphoria; as of Feb. 1, 2019, there were 1,071 currently serving. According to the Pentagon, the department spent about $8 million on transgender care between 2016 and 2019. The military's annual health care budget tops $50 billion.

All four service chiefs told Congress in 2018 that they had seen no discipline, morale or unit readiness problems with transgender troops serving openly in the military. But they also acknowledged that some commanders were spending a lot of time with transgender individuals who were working through medical requirements and other transition issues.

Michigan adds Beech leaf disease to invasive species list

LANSING (AP) — Beech leaf disease has been added to Michigan's invasive species watch list and state officials are asking residents to be on the lookout for trees infested with the damaging disease.

The disease, which has not been found in Michigan, was discovered in Ohio in 2012 and has been identified in seven eastern states and Ontario, Canada, said officials with Michigan's Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.

Beech leaf disease is associated with a microscopic worm that enters and spends the winter in leaf buds. It causes damage to leaf tissue on American beech and European and Asian beech species resulting in darkened, thick tissue bands between leaf veins, creating a striped effect on the leaves, leaf distortion and bud mortality.

Trees weakened by leaf damage become susceptible to other diseases and can die within six years.

Michigan is home to about 32 million American beech trees.

"Many questions about beech leaf disease remain unanswered," said Simeon Wright, a DNR forest health specialist. "Because of this, we don't yet know all the ways the disease might be spread, and currently there are no known treatments to protect trees or reduce disease impacts."

Invasive species on the state's watch list have been identified as posing an immediate or potential threat to Michigan's economy, environment or human health.

Residents who spot a beech tree with signs of the disease are asked to take photos of the infested tree, including affected leaves, and pass those photos and the tree's location onto the DNR or the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network.

"Many questions about beech leaf disease remain unanswered. Because of this, we don't yet know all the ways the disease might be spread, and currently there are no known treatments to protect trees or reduce disease impacts."

SIMEON WRIGHT
DNR forest health specialist

WAIVER

From page A3

instruction and take a test.

"We find our efforts are better focused on providing supports for the academic and social-emotional needs of our students, rather than using limited in-person time with students in preparation for and administration of state summative assessments," Rice said. "We believe data from these assessments will help educators identify students' strengths and weaknesses and design instruction to best support student learning during this unprecedented season."

SOCIAL

From page A3

Other members oppose the idea.

"I think there's a lot of questions," said Jan Haglund, owner of Janny's Beach House. "What do we really want our town to be? Do we want to keep it as a family town? There would be problems with enforcement."

Ron Lucius, owner of Rocket Arcade, shares those concerns, though he feels the social district could be a positive draw for the downtown.

"If you frame it properly that this isn't 'drunk town,'" he said.

"There are so many pros and cons," Brock said. "What do you do about enforcement. Who's going to pick up the extra trash? Who's going to provide extra enforcement?"

Brock intends to seek more feedback for another month or two. She said she is working with the South Haven Area Chamber of Commerce to survey downtown businesses. A public forum would also have to be scheduled, according to the law allowing for Social Districts.

"Ultimately it would go to the city council," she said.

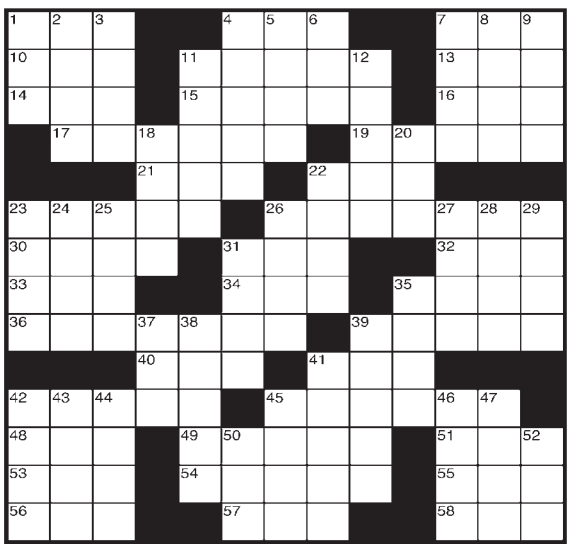
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Schoolboy
4 Filch
7 Skilled person
10 Sporty truck
11 Mooed
13 Physics workplace
14 — — few rounds
15 Greek alphabet ender
16 Put — — fight
17 Set
19 Not smooth
21 Sweater letter
22 Fan noise
23 Small alcoves
26 Add starch
30 Pandora's boxful
31 Seine moorage
32 Fruity drink
33 Lillie or Arthur
34 Seventh notes
35 Spunk
36 Convertible couch (2 wds.)
39 Tags along
40 Zero in on
41 — de mer
42 Gather slowly
45 Under wraps
48 Response on deck
49 Overcharge
51 Scottish for John
53 Web address
54 Must
55 Diamond stat
56 Guitarist — Paul
57 Compost
58 6th sense

DOWN
1 Clumsy person
2 Surmounting
3 Contract
4 Bard's teen
5 Had debts
6 More than ask
7 Grad
8 Dogpatch cartoonist
9 Auction site
11 Highland lakes
12 Tibet's — Lama
18 Ungainly boats
20 TV band
22 Road map nos.
23 Robins' beaks
24 Diet spread
25 "Frozen" snowman
26 Went down
27 Barn locale
28 Actress Falco
29 Takes home
31 Account entry
35 Sourdough's quest
37 Road map org.
38 Gambling game
39 Student at Annapolis
41 Physical strength
42 Ancient France
43 Orpheus' harp
44 Congers
45 Sci-fi award
46 Ireland
47 Apprehends a suspect
50 Not just mine
52 Touch of frost

Answer to Previous Puzzle

J	U	M	P		B	R	R		R	I	L	E
A	R	E	A		R	A	E		N	O	U	N
W	A	R	T		A	N	C	E	S	T	R	Y
	L	E	I	A		S	U	N		A	K	A
			O	X	F	O	R	D	S			
P	I	T		L	A	M	S		C	U	F	F
S	C	R	E	E	N				O	G	L	E
S	K	E	W				H	O	W	L	E	D
T	Y	K	E		A	G	A	R		Y	D	S
			S	E	V	I	L	L	E			
S	R	I		Y	E	N		Y	A	P	S	
C	O	N	V	E	R	G	E		G	E	L	S
A	P	S	E		S	E	A		E	R	A	T
M	E	T	E		E	R	R		R	U	B	Y



1-25

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SEGSU

NADKR

PRIELT

SAQHUS

Hopefully, we'll sleep well tonight.
We can always send it back if not.
THEIR NEW MATTRESS CAME WITH A MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE, SO THEY COULD ---
Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

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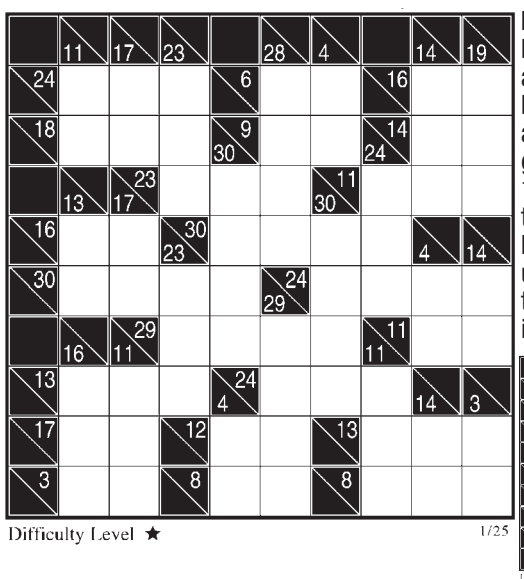
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

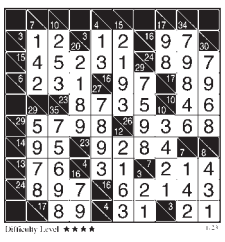
Saturday's Jumbles: LOGIC USHER SPLICE HANGAR
Answer: The terrestrial gastropod mollusk was in a lazy mood and feeling a bit — SLUGGISH

KAKURO



Difficulty Level ★ 1/25

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.



BRIDGE

Double fits – at least eight cards combined in each of two suits – do not give bridge players fits. Quite the opposite – they love them because they provide more tricks than the base point-count suggests. Then the hard part can be deciding which of the two fits to make the trump suit.

Today's deal, of course, is an example. How would you and your partner bid the North-South hands? South opens one spade, and North raises to two spades. (Yes, North has a maximum, and the Losing Trick Count says that he is worth a game-invitational raise, but unless that club suit is useful, the hand will prove disappointing to partner. Starting with two spades seems right.) What should happen after that?

South might jump to four spades, but that is unnecessarily precipitate. It is better to rebid three clubs. Yes, North will think that that is a help-suit game-try, which might be made with a weaker suit, but South is interested in his partner's club holding.

Typically, North would either sign off in three spades or jump to four spades. Here, though, his hand could not be better. He should raise to four clubs, announcing the delicious double fit. South should then see the expediency in bidding six clubs, not six spades, because the diamond ruff(s) will be in the shorter trump hand.

In six clubs, South takes five spades, one heart, five clubs and one diamond ruff in his hand. Even if North has only four clubs, a second diamond ruff will provide a 12th trick.

Note, though, that there are only 11 tricks with spades as trumps after West leads a high diamond.

North 01-25-21
♠ K 10 3
♥ 5 4
♦ 8 7 2
♣ K Q 9 4 3

West
♠ 7 4
♥ Q 8 6 3
♦ A K 10 9
♣ 10 7 6

East
♠ 6 5 2
♥ K J 10 9
♦ Q J 5 4 3
♣ 8

South
♠ A Q J 9 8
♥ A 7 2
♦ 6
♣ A J 5 2

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: Both

South	West	North	East
1♠	Pass	2♠	Pass
??			

Opening lead: ♦ A

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

		9		1	7	6	3	
	6		5	9				4
7	2			6			9	
5	3	4		7		8		
1			3	8	2			9
		2		5		3	1	7
	4			3			5	1
6				4	9		8	
	1	3	8	2		4		

1/26

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

PREVIOUS SOLUTION

7	1	5	4	8	6	2	3	9
3	8	9	1	7	2	5	6	4
2	6	4	5	3	9	8	1	7
9	2	3	8	4	1	7	5	6
1	7	8	2	6	5	4	9	3
5	4	6	3	9	7	1	8	2
6	5	1	9	2	4	3	7	8
4	3	7	6	1	8	9	2	5
8	9	2	7	5	3	6	4	1

OBITUARIES

Beverly Lawton

May 29, 1936 – Jan. 22, 2021

Beverly Elaine Lawton, 84, of Three Oaks died peacefully Friday, Jan. 22, 2021, in the comfort of her husband and children's presence, in Spectrum Health Butterworth Hospital, in Grand Rapids. She passed as a result of complications arising from a seizure and stroke.

She was born on May 29, 1936, in Kalamazoo, to Herbert and Marjorie Schelb.

She married George W. Lawton on Aug. 3, 1958, in Kalamazoo. They enjoyed may adventures in their 63-year marriage.

Beverly graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School in 1954 and attended Albion College. She worked at Shakespeare Company after leaving college.

Beverly was devoted to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and to the institutions that represented him here on earth. She was a life-long member of the United Methodist Church, most recently at Lakeside United Methodist Church, where her husband George was pastor. She served as a leader and worked in many organizations. For many years she served as secretary of the Harbor Country Emergency Food Pantry Board and was a district and conference officer of United Methodist Women. She was a local and state officer of Church Women United, where she enjoyed friendships with women from all walks of life.

Beverly was widely known for her smile and friendliness to all people. Some of her favorite relationships involved women with special needs. She loved to teach. One of her joyful memories was leading a preschool at St. Paul's UMC in Lawton. For many years, she volunteered at the Gathering Thrift Shop in Three Oaks.

She will be greatly missed by family and friends. She is survived by her beloved husband, George W. Lawton of Three Oaks; daughter, Kathleen (Bruce) Owen of Coloma; sons: Geoffrey (Joan) Lawton of Rockford, Gregory Lawton of Jackson, Gerald (Trina) Lawton of Flint; one son-in-law, Tim Haney of Holland; eight grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; sisters: Evelyn (Terry) Taylor of Denver, Laurie (Ronald) Doering of Battle Ground, Wash.; one brother, Kenneth (Linda) Schelb; and a host of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; and one daughter, Marjorie Haney.

The family will observe a private remembrance at this time. Family and friends will gather for a celebration of life at a date and time, to be announced.

Beverly will be laid to rest in Oak Grove Cemetery, in Lawton.

The family prefers contributions in memory of Beverly be made to Harbor Country Emergency Food Pantry, Post Office Box 113, Three Oaks, MI 49128; Lakeside United Methodist Church, PO Box 402, Union Pier, MI 49129; or to the Jalingo Children's Project, care of the Rev. Greg Lawton, 525 S. Alpine Lake Drive, Apt A., Jackson, MI 49203. The latter charity pays the cost of educating 27 orphans in Jalingo, Nigeria.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Pobocik Chapel Wagner Family Funerals, Three Oaks. Please share a memory or a message online: wagnercares.com.

Donald Hetfield

Aug. 23, 1933 – Jan. 24, 2021

Donald Lyle Hetfield, 87, of Baroda passed away Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021, at his home in the care of his family.

The family will be remembering him privately. A gathering of friends and family will be announced at a later date. Online condolences accepted at www.PikeFH.com.

Donald was born on Aug. 23, 1933, in Benton Harbor.

He married Caroline Marie Lick on June 25, 1955, and she preceded him in death on March 4, 2015.

Donald was a custodian at Benton Harbor Public Schools. He enjoyed fishing, traveling and playing cards.

Survivors include his children: Debra Nitz and David Hetfield; four grandchildren: Jason Greco, Ashley Nitz, Joseph Griffith and Matthew Griffith; six great-grandchildren; sisters: Pam Hall and Sandy Archie; and his faithful K9 companion, Popeye.

Donald was preceded by his son-in-law, Dennis Nitz; and brother, Duane Hetfield.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Boyd Chapel of Pike Funeral and Cremations Service, 9191 Red Arrow Hwy. Bridgman.

Ethen Holland

July 15, 2008 – Jan. 22, 2021

Ethen Paul Holland, of Bridgman, passed away Friday, Jan. 22, 2021, at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, Ohio.

Funeral services will be at noon, Thursday, Jan. 28, at Lake Michigan Christian Center, 9955 Church St., Bridgman, with the Rev. Erik C. Gustafson officiating. Friends may meet with the family prior to the service from 10 a.m. to noon. Burial will be in Graceland Cemetery, Bridgman.

Memorials may be made to Helen DeVos Children's Hospital, 100 Michigan St., NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Online condolences at www.PikeFH.com.

Ethen was born on July 15, 2008, in St. Joseph, the son of the Matthew Paul Holland and Stephanie Marie Livesay. Ethen was a sixth-grader at F.C. Reed Middle School in Bridgman. Ethen enjoyed playing video games, going for walks and bike rides.

Ethen is survived by his mother, Stephanie (Jeff Rohwedder) Livesay; father, Matthew Holland; brother, Brandon Holland; grandparents: Bruce (Robin) Livesay, Tarya (Daniel) Dietrich, Linda (Jim) West and Michael Holland; great-grandmothers: Carol Young, and Janie Dietrich; great-grandfather, Loren Livesay and a great-great-aunt, June Vogt.

Arrangements have been entrusted to the Boyd Chapel of Pike Funeral and Cremations Service, 9191 Red Arrow Highway, Bridgman.

Pearl Weinhouse

Jan. 25, 1925 – Jan. 23, 2021

Pearl Irene Weinhouse, 96, of Michigan City, formally of Benton Harbor, passed away on Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021, at Franciscan Health Hospital in Michigan City.

A graveside service will be at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 26 at Temple Beth-El Memorial Park with Rabbi Harvey Spivak officiating. Those wishing to leave an online condolence may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Pearl was born on Jan. 15, 1925, in Benton Harbor to Samuel and Eleanor (Schwartz) Roven.

She was a graduate from Benton Harbor High School.

On Dec. 26, 1948, she married the love of her life, Leon Weinhouse, at Temple Beth-El in Benton Harbor. The two were happily married for almost 57 years before his passing in 2005. Pearl was employed with Whirlpool Corp., as an accounts manager until she retired after 40 years.

Pearl had a passion for acting and singing. She studied voice in Chicago and was a proud member of the Temple Beth-El Choir and Twin City Players. She also enjoyed traveling and was always looking for new experiences. However, what she loved most in life was spending time with her family.

Pearl is survived by her daughter, Esther (Thomas) Stoller of Michigan City; grandchildren: Derek (Genna) Hartog and Abbie Hartog; great-grandchildren: Toren, Sophie and Arie Hartog; step-grandchildren: Alison Martin, Erin (George) Colón, and Christopher Stoller; and step great-grandchildren: Alec and Paiton Martin, Makayla Johnson and Andrew Colón.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and her husband.

Death notices

Virginia Lee (Damico) Baldwin, 86, of Benton Harbor died Jan, 24, 2021, at home. Purely Cremations – Starks Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Benton Harbor, 926-9440.

Carolyn Frost, 73, of Battle Creek died Jan. 23, 2021. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Randy Gregory, 62, of Mishawaka, Ind., died Jan. 21, 2021, at home. Brown Funeral Home, Niles, 683-1155.

Donald Lyle Hetfield, 87, of Baroda died Jan. 24, 2021, at home. Pike Funeral Home, Boyd Chapel, Bridgman, 465-3239.

Ethen Paul Holland of Bridgman died Jan. 22, 2021, at Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, Ohio. Boyd Chapel of Pike Funeral and Cremations Service, Bridgman, 465-3239.

Roger Kempton, 86, of Niles died January 24, 2021. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Cheyane L. Krueger, 17, of Niles died Jan. 24, 2021, at Memorial Hospital, South Bend. Brown Funeral Home, Niles, 683-1155.

Beverly Lawton, 84, of Three Oaks died Jan. 22, 2021. Pobocik Chapel Wagner Family Funerals, Three Oaks, 756-3831.

Barbara J. Lucas, 81, of Dowagiac died Jan. 22, 2021, at home. Clark Chapel and Cremation Services, Dowagiac, 782-2135.

Charlene McClane, 89, of Niles died Jan. 24, 2021, at Lakeland Medical Center, Niles. Brown Funeral Home, Niles, 683-1155.

Donald Dean Ott, 82, of St. Joseph died Jan. 24, 2021. Pike Funeral Home, Boyd Chapel, Bridgman, 465-3239.

Julio Vigil, 82, of Lawton died Jan. 23, 2021. Betzler & Thompson Life Story Funeral Home, Paw Paw, 375-2900.

Pearl Weinhouse, 96, of Michigan City, formally of Benton Harbor, died Jan. 23, 2021. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

Donald Ott

Jan. 11, 1939 – Jan. 24, 2021

Donald Dean Ott, 82, of St. Joseph was received into the arms of his Savior on Sunday, Jan. 24, 2021.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 29, at Grace Lutheran Church, 404 Glenlord Road, St. Joseph, with the Rev. Joshua Bishop officiating. Friends may meet with the family from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28, at Pike Funeral and Cremation Service, Boyd Chapel, 9191 Red Arrow Hwy., Bridgman.

Memorial contributions may be made to Grace Lutheran Church, 404 Glenlord Road, St. Joseph, MI 49085. Online condolences accepted at www.PikeFH.com.

Don was born on Jan. 11, 1939, in Sawyer, the son of the late Clarence and May (Woodrick) Ott.

Donald graduated from Trinity Lutheran School in Sawyer, New Troy High School, and Valparaiso University. While at Valpo Don met Carolyn Beeskow, who was studying to be a teacher. They married in 1965. He retired from Whirlpool Corporation with over 30 years of service as the supervisor of state and local taxes. During retirement Don enjoyed traveling, duck hunting and fishing, and he was an avid sports fan of the Michigan State Spartans and the Detroit Tigers.

A lifelong Lutheran, Don served on the boards of Grace Lutheran Church and School, and Michigan Lutheran High School. His faith was strong throughout his life, always pointing out the blessings regardless of the circumstance.

Survivors include his wife, Carolyn; children: David (Michelle) Ott of Northville, Mich., Deborah (Remie) Ramirez of Stevensville, and daughter-in-law Geri Ott of Westland; grandchildren Zachary Ott, Jordan, Allison and Ashley Ramirez; sister, Marlene (Earl) Anderson; brother in-law, Larry (Gini) Frank; and sister-in-law, Annette Ott.

Don was also preceded in death by sisters: Edna (Martin) Scharnowske, LaVera (William) Lawrenz, Arlene Smiley, Doris (Vern) Nitz and his twin, Darlene Frank; brother, Clarence (Corky) Ott Jr., and brother-in-law, Vernon Mueller.

U.S. coronavirus numbers drop, but race against new strains heats up

By JONATHAN DREW and MICHAEL KUNZELMAN
Associated Press

Wilfredo Lee / AP file

Health care workers prepare to inoculate a driver at a COVID-19 testing site outside Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Fla., on Jan. 6.

Coronavirus deaths and cases per day in the U.S. dropped markedly over the past couple of weeks but are still running at alarmingly high levels, and the effort to snuff out COVID-19 is becoming an ever more urgent race between the vaccine and the mutating virus.

The government's top infectious-disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, said the improvement in numbers around the country appears to reflect a "natural peaking and then plateauing" after a holiday surge, rather than the arrival of the vaccine in mid-December.

The U.S. is recording just under 3,100 deaths a day on average, down from more than 3,350 less than two weeks ago. New cases are averaging about 170,000 a day after peaking at almost 250,000 on Jan. 11. The number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients has fallen to about 110,000 from a high of 132,000 on Jan. 7.

States that have been hot spots in recent weeks such as California and Arizona have shown similar improvements during the same period.

On Monday, California lifted regional stay-at-home orders in favor of county-by-county restrictions and ended a 10 p.m. curfew. The shift will allow restaurants and churches to resume outdoor operations and hair and nail salons to reopen in many places, though local officials could maintain stricter rules.

Elsewhere, Minnesota school districts have begun bringing elementary students back for in-person learning. Chicago's school system, the nation's third-largest district, had hoped to bring teachers back Monday to prepare for students to return next month, but the teachers union has refused.

"I don't think the dynamics of what we're seeing now with the plateauing is significantly influenced yet – it will be soon – but yet by the vaccine. I just think it's the natural course of plateauing," Fauci told NBC's "Today."

Caitlin Rivers, an epidemiologist at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, said too few people have been vaccinated so far for that to have had a significant impact on virus trends. She said she can't predict how long it will take for the vaccines' effects to be reflected in the numbers.

Rivers said she is concerned that the more contagious variants of the virus could lead to a deadly resurgence later this year. "I think we were on track to have a good – or a better, at least – spring and summer, and I'm worried that the variants might be throwing us a curveball," she said.

Nationwide, about 19.3 million people, or less than 6 percent of the U.S. population, have received at least one dose of the vaccine, including about 3 million who have gotten the second shot, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 55 percent of the 41 million doses distributed to the states by the federal government have been injected into arms, by the CDC's count.

The virus has killed over 419,000 Americans and infected more than 25 million, with a widely cited University of Washington model projecting the death toll will reach about 569,000 by May 1.

Getting it straight

The Herald-Palladium makes every effort to ensure accuracy in its stories.

If you think there is an error, please contact the editor of the page on which it occurred. If you are unsure of whom to contact, call Local News Editor Dale Brewer at 429-3797.

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DO YOU REMEMBER?

1996 – 25 years ago

The Berrien County Board of Commissioners has refused to exempt sheriff's deputies from a policy forbidding smoking in county-owned vehicles. The action is expected to result in a grievance, but commissioners said a recent expansion of the county's smoke-free policy to include vehicles should apply to all employees.

1986 – 35 years ago

Michigan marks its 150th year of statehood next year, and officials say the celebration will begin in June and last 18 months. Jan. 26, 1987, is the 150th anniversary of Michigan's admission into the union. The 32-member Michigan Sesquicentennial commission is scheduled to meet in Grand Rapids to begin the countdown.

1971 – 50 years ago

Mercy Hospital has opened its new Meditation Room on the ground floor of the east building. The room is designed to offer a quiet place for mediation for patients' relatives and others desiring and needing the facility. It's furnished with a specially designed stained glass window as its architectural focal point. The room was provided in memory of Howard E. Anthony, who was a prominent local industrialist, civic worker and vice president of the Mercy Hospital Board of Trustees when he was killed in an airplane accident in 1954.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Tuesday, Jan. 26, the 26th day of 2021. There are 339 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On Jan. 26, 2020, NBA legend Kobe Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter and seven others were killed when their helicopter plunged into a steep hillside in dense morning fog in Southern California; the former Lakers star was 41.

On this date:

In 1788, the first European settlers in Australia, led by Capt. Arthur Phillip, landed in present-day Sydney.

In 1907, Congress passed the Tillman Act, which prohibited corporations from making direct campaign contributions to federal election candidates.

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy appointed Dr. Janet G. Travell to be his personal physician; she was the first woman to hold the job.

In 1962, the United States launched Ranger 3 to land scientific instruments on the moon – but the probe ended up missing its target by more than 22,000 miles.

In 1988, the Andrew Lloyd Webber musical "Phantom of the Opera" opened at Broadway's Majestic Theater.

In 1993, Vaclav Havel was elected president of the newly formed Czech Republic.

In 1998, President Bill Clinton forcefully denied having an affair with a former White House intern, telling reporters, "I did not have sexual relations with that woman, Miss Lewinsky."

In 2005, a U.S. Marine helicopter crashed in western Iraq, killing 30 Marines and a Navy medic aboard.

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Snow Likely	Snow Likely	Mostly Cloudy	Isolated Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Chance Rain & Snow
33°	22°	29° / 16°	26° / 15°	28° / 20°	36° / 30°

Local Outlook

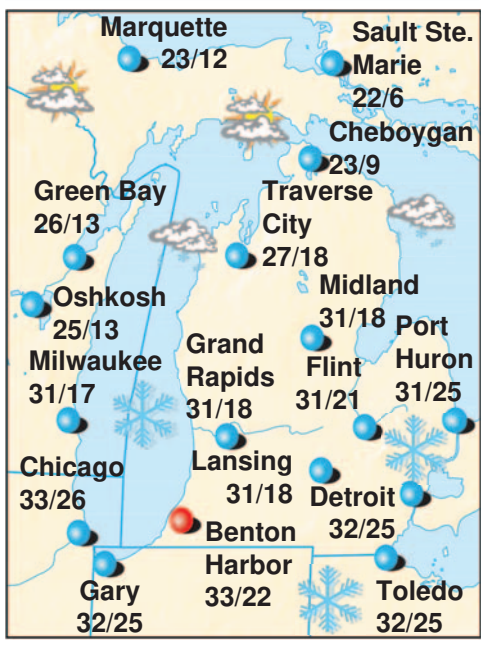
Today we will see cloudy skies with a 100% chance of snow, high temperature of 33°, humidity of 82%. North northeast wind 16 mph. New snow accumulation of around two inches possible. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight with a 75% chance of snow, overnight low of 22°.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise	8:04 a.m.
Sunset	5:53 p.m.
Moonrise	3:42 p.m.
Moonset	6:39 a.m.

Full	Last	New	First
1/28	2/4	2/11	2/19

Regional Map



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday

Temperature

High	34°
Low	30°
Normal High	31°
Normal Low	16°
Record High	50° in 2002
Record Low	-8° in 2008

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	0.96"
Normal for month	1.40"
Year to date	0.96"
Normal Year to date	1.40"

Air Quality

Yesterday 66

Main Offender ..... Particles

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

0-50 ..... Good
51-100 ..... Moderate
101-150 .... Sensitive
151-200 .. Unhealthy

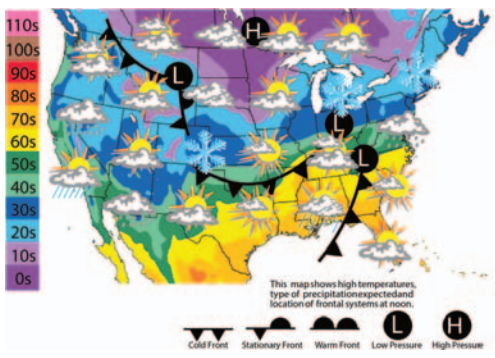
Weather Trivia

What was the first year that a tornado was accurately predicted?

Answer: In 1948, Major Fawbush correctly predicted that atmospheric conditions were ripe for a tornado in Norman, Okla.

National Weather Map

Forecast map for Jan. 26, 2021



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, NE wind 12 to 15 kt. Snow. Waves around 2 ft. Water temperature 35 degrees. Tonight, NNE wind 14 to 19 kt decreasing to 8 to 13 kt. Mostly cloudy. Waves 2 to 3 ft.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy to cloudy with scattered snow, highs in the 20s. North northeast wind 8 to 13 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies Wednesday with highs in the 10s and 20s. South wind 8 to 14 mph.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be cloudy with widespread snow, highs in the 30s. North northeast wind 16 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies Wednesday with highs in the 20s and 30s. North wind 9 to 14 mph.

Pets are back: Biden's 2 German shepherds settle in at White House

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The patter of paws is being heard in the White House again following the arrival of President Joe Biden's dogs Champ and Major. The two German shepherds are the first pets to live at the executive mansion since the Obama administration.

Major burst onto the national scene late last year after Biden, then president-elect, broke his right foot while playing with the dog at their home in Wilmington, Delaware.

The Bidens adopted Major in 2018 from the Delaware Humane Association. Champ joined the family after the 2008 presidential election that made Joe Biden vice president.

The dogs moved into the White House on Sunday, following Biden's inauguration last week.

"The first family wanted to get settled before bringing the dogs down to Washington from Delaware," said Michael LaRosa, spokesperson for first lady Jill Biden. "Champ is enjoying his new dog bed by the fireplace and Major loved running around on the South Lawn."

The dogs were heard barking outside near the Oval Office on Monday as Biden signed an executive order lifting the previous administration's ban on transgender people serving in the military.

Last week, the Delaware Humane Association cosponsored an "indoguration" virtual fundraiser to celebrate Major's journey from shelter pup to first dog. More than $200,000 was raised.

The Bidens had promised to bring the dogs with them to the White House. They plan to add a cat, though no update on the feline's arrival was shared on Monday.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki predicted, while on video answering questions from members of the public, that the cat will "dominate the internet" when it arrives.

Biden's predecessor, Donald Trump, a self-described germaphobe, does not own any pets and had none with him at the White House.

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hp SPORTS

Group prepares to take battle for winter sports to the courts

By LEE THOMPSON
mlive.com

The Let Them Play group thought its battle was done.

But another extension of the state's emergency order brought another round to fight for the proponents of high school sports in Michigan.

"People have been hoping and crossing their fingers," said Jayme McElvany, head of the Let Them Play movement that advocates for the full return of prep sports. "But now kids are at a breaking point, so instead of just hoping, parents are saying 'This is enough. We can't be pushed back again because we can't go back any further.'

"It's literally now or never for some of these kids."

Since Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced Friday that contact sports such as basketball, hockey, wrestling and competitive cheer would not be allowed in Michigan until at least Feb. 21 – extending an order that was set to expire Feb. 1 – the uproar has grown louder among athletes, parents, coaches and fans across the state.

So Let Them Play has taken its game to the next level.

The group – which first formed during an August shutdown and has hosted two rallies at the Capitol Building in Lansing – incorporated as a non-profit organization and retained legal representation to take the matter to the courts, if needed.

Lansing attorney Peter Ruddell said he took the first steps in representing the group, issuing a letter Monday to Elizabeth Hertel, the newly named director of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

"We sent a letter to the new director this morning, urging her to change the order and allow sports to commence Feb. 1," Ruddell said. "Based on the data and the science, we are hopeful the administration recognizes high school athletics are safe for students and are actually in their best interest."

Ruddell shared with MLive the letter that spells out the group's case for reinstating all high school sports. The letter offers a six-part argument with the headings Data and science supports resumption of youth sports, Experience from other states confirms

See PLAY, page B2

MHSAA still pondering next move

The MHSAA is still considering its options after the latest delay to the winter contact sports season.

Girls and boys basketball, wrestling, competitive cheer and ice hockey remain paused from competition until at least Feb. 21, based on a recent update to the emergency order from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. The MHSAA has already adjusted its schedules for these sports multiple times this season.

"We are unable to provide specific plans yet as we are still evaluating the best options for delivering a memorable experience for 60,000 athletes involved in winter contact sports," MHSAA executive director Mark Uyl said in a statement Monday. "We will continue asking questions and advocating for all of our schools and athletes as we work toward building our next plans for seasons in basketball, competitive cheer, ice hockey and wrestling. We will be ready with specific timelines as soon as MDHHS clears contact sports to begin full activity."

Jeffrey Phelps / AP

Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady reacts after winning the NFC championship over the Green Bay Packers on Sunday.

Brady in the way of Chiefs' 2nd straight title

Kansas City, Tampa Bay to meet in Super Bowl

By BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

Reed Hoffmann / AP

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes celebrates after the AFC championship game on Sunday.

Considering that there has been no repeat NFL champion since the 2004 season, clearly some major obstructions have gotten in the way.

For the Chiefs, that hurdle wears a No. 12 jersey and is the last guy to pull off the feat.

After demolishing Buffalo for the AFC title, the Chiefs head to Tampa looking to complete the double. It's been done eight times, twice by the Steelers. But there's never been such a gap for a repeat winner, and after winning its first Super Bowl in a half-century last year, Kansas City seems primed to end that string of failures.

Except for that massive roadblock named Tom Brady.

"The job's not finished," Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes acknowledges. "We're going to Tampa, we're trying to run it back."

To do so, young Mr. Mahomes, you'll need to beat that old man and his penchant for collecting trophies and rings.

"We've just got to be ourselves," added Mahomes, at 25 a mere 18 years younger than Brady. (Heck, Mahomes' father is only 50 years old.) "I trust my guys over anybody."

The rest of the world has learned to trust Brady over most anybody.

The quarterback of the Patriots when they took the Lombardi Trophy for the 2003 and 2004 seasons, Brady owns a nonpareil six rings altogether. He's headed to his 10th Super Bowl, and the big game will be played at Raymond James Stadium, which happens to be the Buccaneers' home field. Add another record to Brady's ledger.

"The belief he gave everybody in this organization, that this could be done," says Bucs coach Bruce Arians of Brady. "It only took one man."

When Brady signed as a free agent with one of the historically worst franchises in the sport – the Bucs won their only visit to the Super Bowl 18 years ago, hadn't been to the playoffs since the 2007 season, and have a 278-429-1 overall record – faith was reborn in Tampa.

See BRADY, page B2

Wright, Ellington lead Pistons over 76ers

By NOAH TRISTER
Associated Press

Carlos Osorio / AP

Detroit Pistons guard Delon Wright steals the ball away from Philadelphia 76ers guard Shake Milton during the second half of Monday's game.

Pistons 119, 76ers 104

DETROIT — Delon Wright scored a career-high 28 points and Wayne Ellington had another impressive shooting night for Detroit, leading the Pistons to a 119-104 victory over the Eastern Conference-leading Philadelphia 76ers on Monday.

Jerami Grant scored 25 points for the Pistons (4-13), who still have the NBA's worst record but took advantage of Joel Embiid's absence. The Philadelphia star was out with back tightness.

Detroit acquitted itself well in this two-game mini-series with the 76ers. Philadelphia needed a big game from Embiid to prevail 114-110 on Saturday night.

The Pistons never trailed in the rematch. Ellington scored 20 points, shooting 6 of 9 from 3-point range. It was his fifth straight game with at least four 3s, tying a team record set by Joe Dumars in 1998-99.

Ellington is 30 of 50 from beyond the arc in his last six games.

Tobias Harris led Philadelphia with 25 points, but the 76ers (12-6) never made much of a run after the Pistons controlled the early going. Detroit's Josh Jackson was ejected in the fourth quarter, but Philadelphia couldn't take advantage.

There were five technical fouls in the game.

Detroit took an early 17-4 lead and was still ahead 64-50 at halftime. The third quarter came and went without the lead getting any tighter than seven, and it was never closer than nine in the fourth.

Tip-ins

76ers: Coach Doc Rivers and C Dwight Howard received technical fouls in the second quarter.

Pistons: Derrick Rose (left knee) missed the game. ... Detroit came in averaging a league-high 44.1 bench points per game. The Pistons had only 29 on Monday.

Up next

Pistons: Visit the Cleveland Cavaliers on Wednesday night. Detroit lost to Cleveland 128-119 in double overtime Dec. 26.

With COVID-19 variant positives, Michigan pauses athletics for 2 weeks

ANN ARBOR (AP) — The entire University of Michigan athletic department is pausing after several positive tests for the new COVID-19 variant that transmits at a higher rate.

The state Department of Health and Human Services said Sunday it issued recommendations for the school, although not an order. The school said Saturday night its move followed the positive COVID-19 tests for several individuals linked to the athletic department. The entire department could be in quarantine for two weeks.

The 11th-ranked women's basketball team was supposed to play at home against Purdue on Sunday. That was one of four athletic events the school had scheduled. The men's tennis team was hosting a tournament while women's tennis was in Atlanta. The men's gymnastics event at Nebraska was also postponed.

The seventh-ranked men's basketball team wasn't supposed to play until Wednesday at Penn State.

"Canceling competitions is never something we want to do, but with so many unknowns about this variant of COVID-19, we must do everything we can to minimize the spread among student-athletes, coaches, staff, and to the student-athletes at other schools," athletic director Warde Manuel said.

Michigan said it has worked diligently within state and Big Ten guidelines, but the state's HHS department was calling for a more aggressive strategy for the new variant.

"Given continued transmission of the variant within UM athletic programs, MDHHS is recommending a very aggressive strategy that exceeds current program efforts," Dr. Joneigh Khaldun of MDHHS said in a memo to university officials Saturday.

"The core of this strategy places ALL UM varsity athletic programs in quarantine until further notice and up to 14 days from today's date," the memo added.

Michigan's men's basketball team leads the Big Ten and had four games scheduled in the next two weeks.

PLAY

From page B1

safety of youth sports, Team sports are part of a student-athlete's education, Education achievement is linked to athletic opportunities, Racial and economic inequities are growing, and Economic and education pathways are closing.

If the MDHHS doesn't act on the request, Ruddell said the Let Them Play group then has the option of suing the state of Michigan. That could send the matter before the courts.

"The Governor has a very high batting average in these cases," Ruddell said. "The courts have been very deferential to the Governor's declaration of emergency. But this is a different case. There are different issues at play that have not been litigated so far."

Let Them Play leaders feel they have science and data on their side.

The letter sent to the MDHHS says that 99.8 percent of the tests that athletes took in order to complete Michigan High School Athletic Association tournaments in football, volleyball and swimming this month were negative and that 98 percent of the fall sports competitions were contested.

It also cites a study conducted by the University of Wisconsin that found "participation in sports is not associated with an increased risk of COVID-19 among high school athletes." That study showed that of the 209 positive cases among players in Wisconsin, only one was attributed to participation in sports.

"What makes this a strong case is our data," said McElvany, a Monroe business owner and mother of a Milan High School athlete. "They refuse to show the data they're using to shut sports down. We are doing the opposite.

"We're basically telling the new director, 'This is why we should be playing, here is the data. We're asking you to change (former director Robert Gordon's) executive order and move sports forward like everything else in the state.'

"Hopefully she'll say 'We understand. Let's do this before it needs to go to court.'"

Let Them Play has another rally planned for noon Saturday at the Capitol and is banking on a large turnout of athletes, coaches and parents. McElvany said the group's following on its Facebook page grew by 6,500 over the weekend after the latest extension was announced.

Most notably, she said, is the growing number of high school administrators who are joining the cause.

"We're getting a much bigger response from the coaches and ADs," she said. "They are fired up and ready to fight. Until now, most of them were not willing to say much, but I think everybody is finally saying enough is enough."

Michigan is one of the last states in the nation to OK the return of high school sports. All states that border Michigan have resumed athletic activity.

Most believed Michigan was about to join them on Feb. 1. But the emergency order, while relaxing restrictions for restaurants, gyms, bowling centers, movie theaters and more, was extended for contact sports. And Let Them Play renewed the fight it believed was over.

"We would prefer not to take it to court," McElvany said. "But we are 100 percent ready."

BRADY

From page B1

A leap of faith, it seemed. Like needing a Hail Mary for the Bucs to rise to the championship level. Then they went 11-5 to become a wild-card team spending all of January on the road.

Big deal. After victories at Washington, New Orleans (which beat the Bucs twice in the regulars season) and Green Bay, they head back home. To host a Super Bowl they are playing in.

"We were at 7-5 seven games ago, not feeling great," Brady explains. "We felt like we needed to find our rhythm. We played four games down the stretch the last quarter of the season, and then after that, it was just all bonus. The guys came through. Everyone stepped up to the challenge.

"It takes everybody, and everybody plays a role. I'm just so proud of this whole team and blessed to be a part of it."

The Chiefs are well aware of what Brady means in a championship chase. For those two decades when New England was dominating the AFC, Kansas City enviously watched. What the Chiefs witnessed then is what is playing out now: Brady as the centerpiece – and by far the most important piece – of a franchise.

He's stamped himself as the overriding reason the Patriots were so good; look at them now without him. And look at what the Bucs have achieved already with him.

When Brady won those successive Super Bowls, he was only beginning to establish his championship pedigree. He hadn't won an MVP award; he now has three. Nor had he won Offensive Player of the Year; he now has two.

He hadn't set many league records of note, either.

Today, he is the most successful player in the NFL's modern era. Even when he throws interceptions on three consecutive series, which he did Sunday at Lambeau Field, he and his team still find ways to win.

That's what Mahomes and his magic must overcome, and the Chiefs are early three-point favorites to do so.

They come from the stronger conference. They win even when they aren't at their best, as happened last week against Cleveland. They shrug off deficits the way Travis Kelce shrugs off defenders. They boast a confidence reminiscent of, well, the QB in Tampa.

And that guy is the most challenging obstacle to get past.

Lions, QB Stafford agree to seek trade offers

By KIRKLAND CRAWFORD and DAVE BIRKETT
Detroit Free Press (TNS)

Duane Burleson / AP

Detroit Lions quarterback Matthew Stafford throws during the first half of a Jan. 3 game against Minnesota.

DETROIT — The Matthew Stafford-Detroit Lions marriage is coming to an amicable separation.

A league source told the Free Press on Saturday that Stafford approached the team after the season ended Jan. 3 and suggested a trade may be in the interest of both him and the Lions. The team has agreed to explore a deal.

Stafford has two years and $43 million remaining – great value in today's quarterback market – on his five-year, $135 million contract signed in 2017. He is due a $10 million bonus on the fifth day of the league year in March.

The Lions would carry $19 million in dead money on their salary cap in 2021, but a trade would yield a savings of $14 million in cap space and $20 million in cash. The Lions currently have about $12 million in cap space.

Quarterback needy teams include New England, Indianapolis, Washington and perhaps New Orleans, among others.

With the Lions set for a rebuild under a new regime after three straight last-place NFC North finishes, Stafford presumably is ready to move to a contender.

He passed for 26 touchdowns and 10 interceptions with a 96.3 QB rating in 2020 for the 5-11 Lions, playing through injury late in the season that seemed likely to bench him.

He missed the final eight games in 2019 after fracturing bones in his back for the second straight year. The Lions went 0-8 without Stafford in 2019 and finished 3-12-1. He made 136 consecutive starts before his injury.

The Lions hired Dan Campbell as head coach Wednesday, and Brad Holmes as general manager last week, and face an overhaul, particularly along a defense that set franchise records for ineptitude in 2020.

Detroit has the No. 7 overall pick in April's draft. After presumptive No. 1 pick Trevor Lawrence, other QBs potentially in play include Ohio State's Justin Fields, BYU's Zach Wilson, North Dakota State's Trey Lance and Alabama's Mac Jones.

Stafford, who turns 33 in February, was the Lions' No. 1 overall pick out of Georgia in 2009, after an 0-16 season in 2008. With him at quarterback, the Lions made the playoffs three times in 12 seasons – 2011, 2014 and 2016 – but lost road games in the wild-card round each time. (45-28 at New Orleans, 24-20 at Dallas, 26-6 at Seattle.)

Before Stafford's arrival, the Lions' last playoff appearance was 1999.

The Lions have not won a playoff game since the 1991 season, losing nine straight postseason games, and it remains their lone postseason win since 1957. Only the Cincinnati Bengals have a longer playoff winless streak.

Stafford and his wife, Kelly, have four daughters. They put their palatial lakefront Bloomfield Hills house on the market early last year.

Cactus League asks MLB to delay spring training due to COVID

By JAKE SEINER
Associated Press

The Cactus League and Arizona community leaders have asked Major League Baseball to delay the start of spring training due to coronavirus concerns just over three weeks before pitchers and catchers are supposed to report.

The Cactus League made the request in a letter to Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred obtained by The Associated Press on Monday. The letter was co-signed by the mayors of Mesa, Scottsdale, Surprise, Glendale, Goodyear and Peoria, as well as representatives from Phoenix and the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

MLB said in a statement that it "will continue to consult with public health authorities, medical experts, and the Players Association whether any schedule modifications to the announced start of Spring Training and the Championship Season should be made in light of the current COVID-19 environment to ensure the safety of the players, coaches, umpires, MLB employees and other game day personnel in a sport that plays every day."

Arizona is averaging just under 7,000 new coronavirus cases per day, but the Cactus League cited data in its letter from the University of Washington's Institute of Health Metrics and Evaluation projecting a sharp decline in infections by mid-March, down to as few as 3,072 daily. Spring camps are set to open the week of Feb. 15, with the regular season set to start on April 1.

Despite the roiling case numbers, the NHL's Arizona Coyotes are hosting 3,450 fans for home games in Glendale, while the NBA's Phoenix Suns are playing without fans. High school sports are also still operating.

In a sign that other teams are moving forward with preseason plans, the spring training home in Jupiter, Florida, shared by the St. Louis Cardinals and Miami Marlins announced Monday it will begin selling tickets for spring games beginning Feb. 1. Roger Dean Chevrolet Stadium said 2021 tickets will be sold in seating pods spaced six feet apart throughout the stadium.

Any changes to the major league schedule are subject to agreement with the players' association per terms of their collective bargaining agreement. A person familiar with talks between the sides said MLB asked the union in November about moving back opening day a month to create a safer playing environment, possibly spurred by the availability of vaccines.

The union asked if the postseason could be moved back to make up the 30 or so missed games, or if the league would pay players for the missed games if they weren't made up. The league declined, saying it wouldn't push the postseason deep into November over broadcast concerns and wouldn't pay players for missed games.

Talks stalled there, and no formal proposals about altering opening day have been exchanged.

"The letter correctly notes that MLB does not have the ability to unilaterally make this decision," the players' association said in a statement. "While we, of course, share the goals of a safe spring training and regular season, MLB has repeatedly assured us that it has instructed its teams to be prepared for an on time start to spring training and the regular season and we continue to devote all our efforts to making sure that that takes place as safely as possible."

While the league was able to impose a shortened 60-game regular season in 2020 per the terms of an agreement with the union signed in March, it doesn't have the authority to unilaterally adjust the 2021 season under the current collective bargaining agreement.

The person also confirmed that the union turned down a December offer from the league that included a permanent adoption of an expanded postseason and the universal designated hitter – changes instituted in 2020.

In the negotiations, the league also asked for a variety of on-field changes, including use of a pitch clock and an automated strike zone in spring training. In exchange, it offered to resolve two service-time grievances from last season in the union's favor and boost the players' guaranteed postseason share from $50 million last season to more than $80 million, roughly what the players got in 2019.

The union declined the proposal because it is opposed to expanding the postseason, fearing it will disincentivize teams from pursuing free agents.

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Phila.	12	6	.667	—
Boston	9	6	.600	1½
Brooklyn	11	8	.579	1½
New York	8	10	.444	4
Toronto	7	10	.412	4½

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	8	8	.500	—
Orlando	8	10	.444	1
Charlotte	7	10	.412	1½
Miami	6	10	.375	2
Washington	3	9	.250	3

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	10	6	.625	—
Indiana	10	7	.588	½
Cleveland	8	8	.500	2
Chicago	7	9	.438	3
Detroit	4	13	.235	6½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Memphis	7	6	.538	—
San Antonio	9	8	.529	—
Dallas	8	8	.500	½
Houston	6	9	.400	2
New Orleans	5	10	.333	3

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Utah	12	4	.750	—
Portland	9	6	.600	2½
Denver	9	7	.563	3
Oklahoma City	6	9	.400	5½
Minnesota	4	11	.267	7½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Clippers	13	4	.765	—
L.A. Lakers	13	4	.765	—
Phoenix	8	7	.533	4
Golden State	8	8	.500	4½
Sacramento	6	10	.375	6½

Sunday's Games

Toronto 107, Indiana 102
L.A. Clippers 108, Oklahoma City 100
Boston 141, Cleveland 103
Charlotte 107, Orlando 104
San Antonio 121, Washington 101
Milwaukee 129, Atlanta 115
Portland 116, New York 113
Sacramento at Memphis, ppd

Monday's Games

Orlando 117, Charlotte 108
Indiana 129, Toronto 114
Brooklyn 98, Miami 85
Detroit 119, Phila. 104
L.A. Lakers at Cleveland
Sacramento at Memphis, ppd
Denver at Dallas
Boston at Chicago
San Antonio at New Orleans, ppd
Minnesota at Golden State
Oklahoma City at Portland

Tuesday's Games

L.A. Clippers at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Washington at Houston, 8 p.m.
New York at Utah, 9 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Detroit at Cleveland, 7 p.m.
Indiana at Charlotte, 7 p.m.
Sacramento at Orlando, 7 p.m.
Brooklyn at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.
Denver at Miami, 7:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Phila., 7:30 p.m.
Milwaukee at Toronto, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Memphis, ppd
Boston at San Antonio, 8:30 p.m.
Dallas at Utah, 9 p.m.
Oklahoma City at Phoenix, 9 p.m.
Washington at New Orleans, 9 p.m.
Minnesota at Golden State, 10 p.m.

NHL

East Division

Sunday's Games

Chicago 6, Detroit 2
Buffalo 4, Washington 3, SO
Vegas 1, Arizona 0
Toronto 3, Calgary 2
New Jersey 2, N.Y. Islanders 0
Anaheim 3, Colorado 1
San Jose 5, Minnesota 3
Edmonton 4, Winnipeg 3
Pittsburgh 3, N.Y. Rangers 2
Dallas 3, Nashville 2
Los Angeles 6, St. Louis 3

Monday's Games

Ottawa at Vancouver,

Tuesday's Games

Florida at Columbus, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Washington, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Boston, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Chicago at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Edmonton at Winnipeg, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Arizona, 9 p.m.
San Jose at Colorado, 9 p.m.
St. Louis at Vegas, 9 p.m.
Toronto at Calgary, 9 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Chicago at Nashville, 7:30 p.m.
Ottawa at Vancouver, 8 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Calgary at Montreal, 7 p.m.
Florida at Columbus, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Washington, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at New Jersey, 7 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Boston, 7 p.m.
Tampa Bay at Carolina, 7 p.m.
Los Angeles at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Detroit at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
Anaheim at Arizona, 9 p.m.
San Jose at Colorado, 9 p.m.
St. Louis at Vegas, 9 p.m.
Ottawa at Vancouver, 10 p.m.
Toronto at Edmonton, 10 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

The AP Top 25 Men's Basketball Poll

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 24, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Gonzaga (61)	15-0	1597	1
2. Baylor (3)	14-0	1539	2
3. Villanova	10-1	1459	3
4. Michigan	13-1	1376	7
5. Texas	11-2	1341	5
6. Houston	13-1	1281	8
7. Iowa	12-3	1214	4
8. Virginia	10-2	1067	13
9. Alabama	13-3	1039	18
10. Texas Tech	11-4	954	12
11. West Virginia	10-4	869	14
12. Missouri	10-2	833	19
13. Ohio St.	12-4	810	15
14. Wisconsin	12-4	757	10
15. Kansas	10-5	665	9
16. Florida St.	9-2	656	-
17. Creighton	11-4	640	11
18. Tennessee	10-3	638	6
19. Illinois	10-5	415	22
20. Virginia Tech	11-3	242	16
21. Minnesota	11-5	223	17
22. Saint Louis	7-1	218	25
23. UCLA	12-3	157	24
24. Oklahoma	9-4	151	-
25. Louisville	10-3	117	-

Others receiving votes: Boise St. 108, Drake 75, Colorado 59, Southern Cal 50, Oklahoma St. 49, Oregon 49, Florida 37, UConn 20, Winthrop 16, Xavier 14, Loyola of Chicago 12, BYU 11, Purdue 11, Belmont 9, Clemson 8, St. Bonaventure 6, Toledo 4, Arizona 4.

The AP Top 25 Women's Basketball Poll

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 24, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote and previous ranking

	Record	Pts	Prv
1. Louisville (22)	14-0	739	1
2. NC State (5)	11-0	710	2
3. UConn (1)	10-0	692	3
4. South Carolina (2)	12-1	679	4
5. UCLA	9-2	618	6
6. Stanford	12-2	572	5
7. Maryland	11-1	565	7
8. Texas A&M	14-1	550	8
9. Baylor	10-2	522	9
10. Arizona	11-2	494	10
11. Oregon	11-3	420	13
12. Michigan	10-1	382	11
13. South Florida	10-1	353	14
14. Ohio St.	8-1	346	17
15. Kentucky	11-4	320	12
16. Indiana	9-3	308	16
17. DePaul	9-3	238	18
18. Gonzaga	13-2	186	20
19. Arkansas	11-5	182	15
20. Tennessee	10-3	180	25
21. Mississippi St.	8-4	156	19
22. Georgia	12-2	122	22
23. Northwestern	8-3	93	21
24. West Virginia	11-2	72	-
25. South Dakota St.	13-2	66	-

Others receiving votes: Texas 52, Missouri St. 49, Iowa St. 29, Syracuse 27, Alabama 10, Rice 7, Georgia Tech 5, Milwaukee 4, South Dakota 2.

BIG TEN CONFERENCE

	Conference			All Games		
	W	L	Pct	W	L	Pct
Michigan	8	1	.889	13	1	.929
Iowa	6	2	.750	12	3	.800
Wisconsin	6	3	.667	12	4	.750
Illinois	6	3	.667	10	5	.667
Ohio St.	6	4	.600	12	4	.750
Purdue	6	4	.600	11	6	.647
Minnesota	4	5	.444	11	5	.688
Indiana	4	5	.444	9	7	.563
Rutgers	4	6	.400	8	6	.571
Maryland	3	6	.333	9	7	.563
Michigan St.	2	4	.333	8	4	.667
Northwestern	3	7	.300	6	8	.429
Penn St.	2	5	.286	5	6	.455
Nebraska	0	5	.000	4	8	.333

PRIME TIME TV

TUESDAY EVENING JAN. 26

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC 7 13 41 57	Wheel of Fortune	To Tell the Truth CC (DVS)		black-ish (N)	mixed-ish	Big Sky (N) CC (DVS)	
CBS 2 3 22	Ent. Tonight	NCIS "1mm" (N) CC (DVS)		FBI A young girl is kidnapped. (N) CC		FBI: Most Wanted "The Line" (N) CC	
NBC 5 8 16	Ac. Hollywood	Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist (N)		This Is Us CC (DVS)		:01 Nurses Wolf struggles on the job.	
FOX 17 22 28 32	Modern Family	The Resident Cain is struck by a car. (N)		:01 Prodigal Son "Alma Mater" (N)		Fox 17 News at 10:00PM (N) CC	
PBS 34	Steves' Europe	Finding Your Roots With Henry		PBS American Portrait "I Rise" CC		Frontline "Trump's American Carnage"	
CW 25	Big Bang Theory	Horror Stories	Horror Stories	Trickster "Episode 3" (N)		News	Seinfeld CC
MNT 50	Family Feud	Dateline CC		Chicago P.D. "The Forgotten"		Chicago P.D. "Pain Killer" CC (DVS)	
WCIU 26	Mike & Molly	Horror Stories	Horror Stories	Trickster "Episode 3" (N)		The Drew Barrymore Show (N) CC	
WHME 46	:00 Heartland	Heartland "The Fix" CC (DVS)		Highway to Heaven "The Monster"		Nightly News	
WGN 9	News	black-ish	black-ish CC	Last Man Standing	Last Man Standing	WGN News at Nine (N) (L) CC	
A&E	:00 The First 48	The First 48 CC		The First 48 CC		:01 The First 48 "Bad Love" CC	
AMC	5:30 Twister	★★★ Star Trek ('09) Chris Pine, Zachary Quinto. Chronicles the early days of the starship Enterprise and her crew. CC					
Animal	Insane Po	Insane Pools: Off the Deep End (N)				Treehouse Masters	
BET	Madea Goes to Jail			★★ Think Like a Man Too ('14) CC			
Big Ten	Women's College Volleyball			B1G Basketball in 60		B1G Basketball in 60	
Bravo	Real House.	The Real Housewives of Dallas (N)		The Real Housewives of Dallas (N)		Watch What	Real House.
Cartoon	Gumball	Burgers	Burgers	American	American	Rick	Rick
Cinemax	Let's Go to Prison	★★★ La La Land ('16, Musical) Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone. CC				:10 ★★ Live by Night ('16) CC	
CMT	Last Man	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom
CNBC	S. Smith	Shark Tank CC		Shark Tank		Streets of Dreams	
CNN	OutFront	Anderson Cooper		Cuomo Prime Time		CNN Tonight	
Comedy	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office	Office
Discovery	Moonshiners	Moonshiners "Smoke to the Fire" Josh moves his still to Virginia. (N) CC				Moonshiners "Battle of the Backwoods"	
Disney	Raven	Sydney	Sydney	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Big City	Bunk'd
DIY	Off Grid	Building Off the Grid		Unbelievable Builds		Building Off the Grid	
E!	Chrisley	Chrisley	Chrisley	Chrisley	Chrisley	Chrisley	Chrisley
ESPN	College Basketball Teams TBA.			College Basketball Georgia Tech at Duke.			
ESPN2	College Basketball Teams TBA.			College Basketball Missouri at Auburn. (N)			
ESPNC	6:00 MLB Baseball			Classic-Boxing		Boxing	
Food	Chopped	Chopped CC		Chopped (N) CC		Supermarket	
Fox News	FOX	Tucker Carlson		Hannity (N) CC		The Ingraham Angle	
Fox Sports	Tennis	Wings	NHL Hockey Detroit Red Wings at Dallas Stars. (N)				
Freefrm	:00 ★ The Waterboy ('98) Adam Sandler, Kathy Bates. CC			★★ Step Brothers ('08, Comedy) Will Ferrell, John C. Reilly, Richard Jenkins. CC			
FX	Pitch Perfect 3	★★ Jurassic World ('15) Chris Pratt. Man-made dinosaurs go on a rampage at an island resort.					Jurassic World
Golf	Golf Central (N)		College Golf Southwestern Invitational, Second Round.				
Hallmark	The Color of Rain	A Winter Getaway ('21, Romance) Nazneen Contractor, Brooks Darnell. CC				Golden Girls	Golden Girls
HBO	:35 ★★★ Independence Day ('96) Will Smith. Earthlings vs. evil aliens in 15-mile-wide ships. CC					REAL Sports With Bryant Gumbel (N)	
History	Digging	Beyond Oak Island		Curse-Island		Proof	Proof
HGTV	Fixer to	Fixer to Fabulous (N)		Fixer to Fabulous (N)		Hunters	Hunt Intl
Learning	7 Little	7 Little Johnstons		Fat Fabulous		:02 Unpolished (N)	
Lifetime	Rizzoli & Isles	Rizzoli & Isles "Home Town Glory"		Rizzoli & Isles "Melt My Heart to Stone"		:03 Rizzoli & Isles CC	
MSNBC	ReidOut	All In With		Rachel Maddow		The Last Word	
MTV	Teen OG	Teen Mom OG (N)		Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.
NBCSCH	Pregame	NHL Hockey: Blackhawks at Predators					Postgame
NFL	NFL Total	Senior Bowl Practice		NFL Football Teams TBA. CC			
Nick	Rugrats in Paris		Sponge.	Sheldon	Sheldon	Friends	Friends
NGEO	Next Gen	Life Below Zero: Next Generation (N)				Life Below	
Oxygen	:00 Chicago P.D.	Chicago P.D. "Politics" CC (DVS)		Chicago P.D. "Monster" CC (DVS)		Chicago P.D. "Rabbit Hole" CC (DVS)	
Parmt	Fast and Furious-Drift			:15 ★★ Fast & Furious ('09) CC			
Showtime	:00 ★★★ 1917 ('19, War) George MacKay. CC			Inside the NFL (N) CC		Shameless CC	
Starz	6:59 ★★ Total Recall ('12) Colin Farrell. CC			American Gods CC		9:54 ★★ Black and Blue ('19)	
STZENC	6:48 ★★★ Something's Gotta Give ('03) Jack Nicholson.			★★ Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian ('09) Ben Stiller. CC			
SyFy	★★ Olympus Has Fallen ('13, Action) Gerard Butler. A disgraced agent must rescue the president.					Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2	
TBS	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	The Misery Index
TCM	Sword-Desert	No Angel ('92) Domenic Cuzzocrea, Susan Hamann. CC			:45 ★★★ Road to Utopia ('45) Bing Crosby. CC		
TMC	★★ Second Act	★★ Five Feet Apart ('19, Romance) Haley Lu Richardson, Cole Sprouse. CC				Ophelia ('18) Daisy Ridley. CC	
TNT	Ocean 11	★ Geostorm ('17) Gerard Butler.				London Has Fallen	
Travel	Dead	The Dead Files "No Peace at Home" (N)				The Dead Files (N)	
TV Land	Andy G.	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond	Raymond
USA	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	
VH1	:00 ★★★ The Best Man ('99) CC				★★ Save the Last Dance		
WGN-A	Last Man Standing	NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC	

Marriage is a sticking point for old friends reconnecting

DEAR ABBY: I've been dating a guy for five years. We were high school classmates and became close friends shortly after that. Abby, he's the man of my dreams. I've been in love with him since we were 16 years old. We married other people, but we are divorced now and we are together.

Jeanne Phillips
Dear Abby

We are both 46. I want to get married and he knows it. We have discussed it – but every time I bring it up (and I always bring it up, he never does), he has an excuse. He says it's only a piece of paper, we've both already been married, I have some debt, etc.

I have a 19-year-old daughter, and he has two kids, 13 and 11. We all get along, even our exes. I am tired of being just "the girlfriend." This is not how I want to live the rest of my life. I have always wanted to be his wife.

He's a good man. He treats me great, is respectful, considerate and I love him so much. Must I suck it up and live and die as his girlfriend or leave because he doesn't want to get married? If I leave, I have no plans on dating or trying to marry anyone else. I'm fine alone. Please help. – Wants The Piece Of Paper

DEAR WANTS: As you have framed it, your boyfriend – whom you love very much – doesn't want to formalize the relationship, and if you break things off, you don't plan to become involved with anyone else. If you are asking me for magic words that will convince your marriage-phobic boyfriend to make a permanent commitment, you are asking something that isn't possible. If he feels as strongly about you as you do him, he may come around one day, but there are no guarantees. And yes, you will have to "suck it up" if you're not prepared to leave, and while you're doing that, make the best of it.

DEAR ABBY: I've been dating a beautiful woman for a year now. We have fallen deeply in love. We have the kind of relationship that one can only dream of, and we couldn't be happier.

I've bought her some jewelry, including rings, to show her my love. She wears them, but she also wears jewelry, including rings, from past relationships. I told her this bothers me. She said those items don't have any sentimental value, she just likes them. I have no doubt she means that.

Should I overlook this and not let it bother me, or should I be more persistent? – Expression Of Love

DEAR EXPRESSION: Your feelings are your feelings. Seeing your lady friend enjoy jewelry she received from other men bothers you. You have told her as much. While at one time the items were symbols of the affection her ex (exes?) had for her, to her they are now just jewelry. If you want to continue the relationship with her, place less importance on the baubles. They have nothing to do with you or the relationship you both enjoy now.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Why didn't her husband tell her his father has cancer?

Adapted from an online discussion.

DEAR CAROLYN: I found out last night that my father-in-law has prostate cancer, when I overheard my husband telling my children.

This caused a minor uproar, as my husband slipped it into a conversation about something else. The uproar got louder when our children found out my husband has known for a year or more, but didn't share the information with them.

Carolyn Hax

My reaction was a quieter version but basically the same uproar: My husband has known for over a YEAR??

When we were alone, I told my husband I was surprised and hurt he hadn't told me, and he got defensive. He justified his decision with, "It is slow-growing and not a big deal in older men." There is no indication my father- or mother-in-law asked that it be kept quiet.

I'm not sure what to do with this. My brain is spinning. Does my husband think I don't care about his father, or that I won't have his back? I can probably get an apology, but I don't think he really feels there is anything to apologize about.

Maybe prostate cancer in older men isn't a big deal, but this seems like something that should be shared. Should I just let this go? – Spinning

DEAR SPINNING: There's a lot here that just ... depends. On his nature, on yours, on what his and your histories are, on what he was thinking, if at all, etc.

So here's what I've got: You're right, of course, that he should have told you right away.

And it's understandable that you're framing it in terms of what his silence says about you. As in, "Does my husband think I don't care?" Reasonable position.

But I suspect his reasons are about him, not you. He's in denial, or out of sorts, or thinking he'll get around to it eventually, or whatever.

You know your husband well, presumably? So there's a lot of context here for sure. Look to that context to figure out what *his* motivation is most likely to be.

READERS THOUGHTS:

■ I'm your husband. I didn't tell people I was moving or that I was pregnant or getting married or getting a new job. That's just not who I am. I don't like talking about feelings. If I'd gotten this news, I wouldn't have shared it with my husband either.

In fact, I have gotten news like that and haven't shared it. It's partially because I think my husband doesn't really like my family – and partially because I don't want to talk about it. It is what it is, and talking won't change that. (A not very typically feminine approach, I know.) There's not anything anyone else can do, and I don't need my husband to do anything for me anyway.

I deal with things the way I need to deal with him and so does your husband. If you make a big deal out of this, he's just going to feel bad because of what he's "supposed" to do/feel.

■ Perhaps he didn't share because he knew you would freak out. He could deal with his dad's illness but not your anxiety about it?

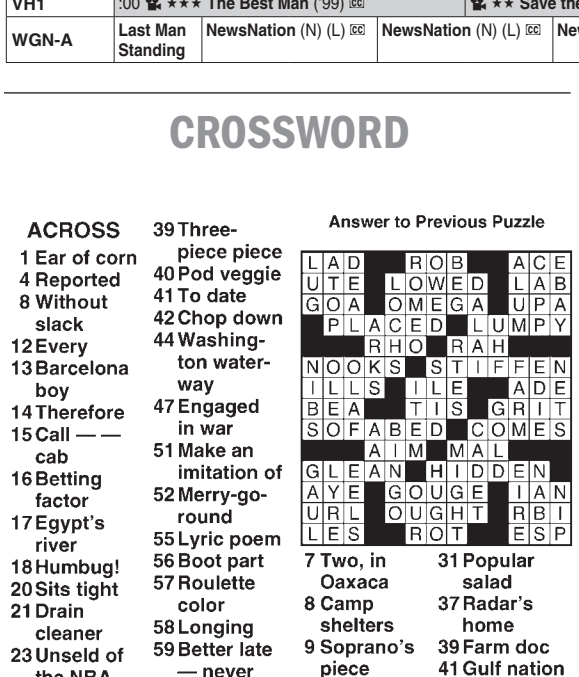
Email Carolyn Hax at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Ear of corn
4 Reported
8 Without slack
12 Every
13 Barcelona boy
14 Therefore
15 Call — — cab
16 Betting factor
17 Egypt's river
18 Humbug!
20 Sits tight
21 Drain cleaner
23 Unseld of the NBA
24 Dry plains shrub
27 Round dwelling
29 Scribble down
32 Hotfoots it
33 Be very frugal
34 Cassowary kin
35 Large vase
36 Pasture
37 OPEC country
38 Ego ending
39 Three-piece piece
40 Pod veggie
41 To date
42 Chop down
44 Washington waterway
47 Engaged in war
51 Make an imitation of
52 Merry-go-round
55 Lyric poem
56 Boot part
57 Roulette color
58 Longing
59 Better late — never
60 Foam
61 Formic acid producer

DOWN
1 Army outpost
2 Bullfight shouts
3 Mediocre
4 Like ski slopes
5 Help out
6 Ill. neighbor
7 Two, in Oaxaca
8 Camp shelters
9 Soprano's piece
10 Ill-favored
11 Sock ends
19 Tavern brews
20 Harden
22 Grommet
23 Garland
24 Feng —
25 Makes public
26 Well-bred chap
28 Hilo guitars
29 Twitch
30 General — Bradley
31 Popular salad
37 Radar's home
39 Farm doc
41 Gulf nation
43 Pitchers
44 Furtive sound
45 Yikes! (hyph.)
46 Fundraiser, often
48 Spanish painter
49 Blissful spot
50 Mar
52 TLC providers
53 Promissory note
54 Carried out

Answer to Previous Puzzle



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JUMBLE

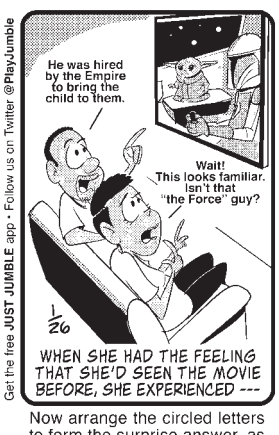
Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GIWHE

NILVY

CATEKJ

ENGAAD


He was hired by the Empire to bring the child to them.
Wait! This looks familiar. Isn't that "the Force" guy?
1/26
WHEN SHE HAD THE FEELING THAT SHE'D SEEN THE MOVIE BEFORE, SHE EXPERIENCED ---

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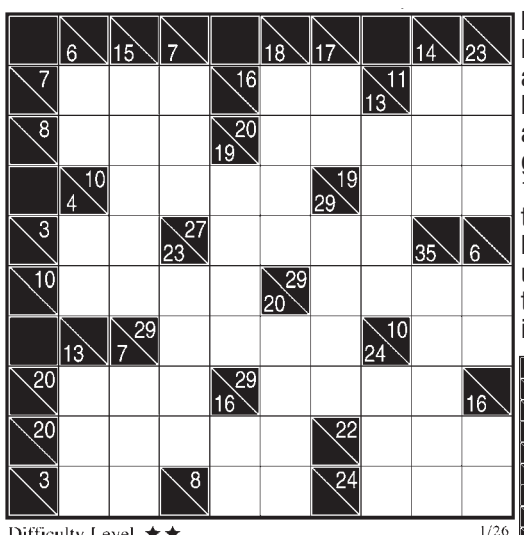
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) " ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) "

(Answers tomorrow)

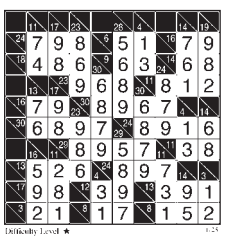
Yesterday's Jumbles: GUESS DRANK TRIPLE SQUASH
Answer: Their new mattress came with a money-back guarantee, so they could — REST ASSURED

KAKURO



Difficulty Level ★★ 1/26

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.



BRIDGE

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote, "Ships that pass in the night and speak each other in passing; / Only a signal shown and a distant voice in the darkness; / So on the ocean of life, we pass and speak one another, / Only a look and a voice, then darkness again and a silence."

Bridge defenders do not play in the dark, but they must signal to each other. If you watch a well-versed pair, it is surprising how much information can be sent across the table.

In today's deal, how did East and West defend against four spades after West had led the diamond ace?

North made a cue-bid raise, showing three or more spades and at least game-invitational strength (at most eight losers). South, with only a six-loser hand, jumped to game.

From East's point of view, it was likely that his partner had led a singleton. If so, she would want to know where East has an entry so that she could receive a ruff. Since that was in clubs, the lower-ranking of the other two side suits, East played the diamond three.

Now West did very well, shifting to the club two. What did this tell East?

Leading low from length guarantees at least one honor in that suit and expresses interest in trying to win tricks in that suit. So East now knew that his partner had not led a singleton ace. If she had, she would have switched to a high club. Therefore, East won with his club ace and returned the club eight (high from a remaining doubleton). A moment later, West's spade ace defeated the contract.

North 01-26-21
♠ K Q 9 3
♥ 7 6
♦ K Q 9 5 2
♣ Q 3

West
♠ A 2
♥ J 4 2
♦ A 7
♣ K 10 9 7 5 2

East
♠ 10 5
♥ 9 8 3
♦ J 10 8 6 3
♣ A 8 6

South
♠ J 8 7 6 4
♥ A K Q 10 5
♦ 4
♣ J 4

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
1♠	2♣	3♣	Pass
4♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♦ A

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

		9		1	7	6	3	
	6		5	9				4
7	2			6			9	
5	3	4		7		8		
1			3	8	2			9
		2		5		3	1	7
	4			3			5	1
6				4	9		8	
	1	3	8	2		4		

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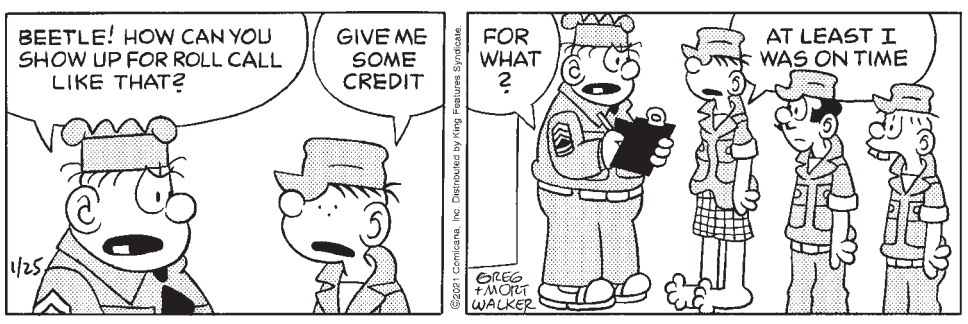
How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

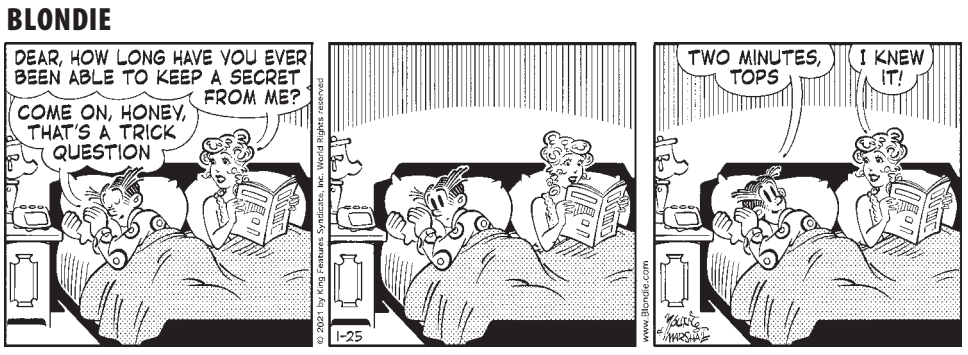
PREVIOUS SOLUTION

5	6	9	4	8	7	1	2	3
4	1	7	6	3	2	5	9	8
3	2	8	5	9	1	7	4	6
1	5	6	3	2	4	8	7	9
9	3	4	7	1	8	6	5	2
8	7	2	9	5	6	4	3	1
2	9	1	8	4	5	3	6	7
6	4	3	1	7	9	2	8	5
7	8	5	2	6	3	9	1	4

BEETLE BAILEY


BEETLE! HOW CAN YOU SHOW UP FOR ROLL CALL LIKE THAT?
GIVE ME SOME CREDIT
1/25
FOR WHAT ?
AT LEAST I WAS ON TIME
©2021 Comicana, Inc. Distributed by King Features Syndicate.
GREG + MORT WALKER

BLONDIE


DEAR, HOW LONG HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ABLE TO KEEP A SECRET FROM ME?
COME ON, HONEY, THAT'S A TRICK QUESTION
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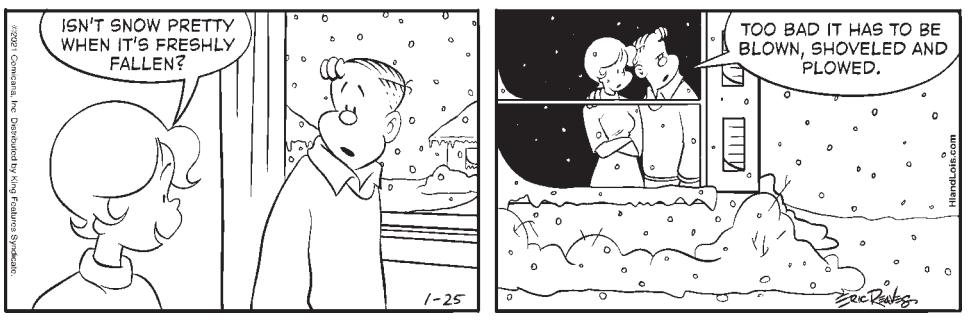
1-25
TWO MINUTES, TOPS
I KNEW IT!
www.Blondie.com

HI & LOIS



BC

WIZARD OF ID

GO SKIING, THEY SAID. IT'LL RELAX YOU, THEY SAID
Wizardofid.com
Facebook.com/WizardOfId
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Dist. by Creators 1-25-21

DILBERT

ACTIVISTS ARE ACCUSING US OF PADDING OUR CUSTOMER LIST WITH THE NAMES OF DEAD PEOPLE.
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
THAT'S A LIE. THOSE CUSTOMERS WERE ALIVE WHEN THEY BOUGHT OUR PRODUCTS.
1-25-21 2021 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel
DID THEY DIE WHILE USING THEM?
LET'S HOPE THE ACTI-VISTS DON'T ASK THAT QUESTION.

GARFIELD

YAWN!
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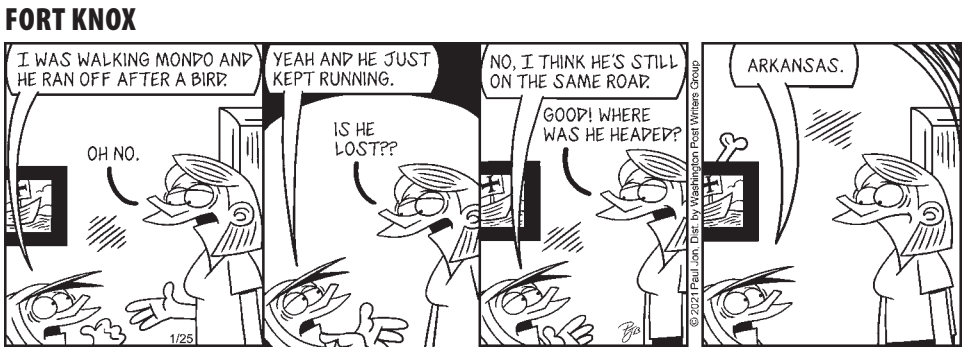
SOME CALL IT YAWNING
I CALL IT SLEEP WARM-UPS
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
JIM DAVIS 1-25

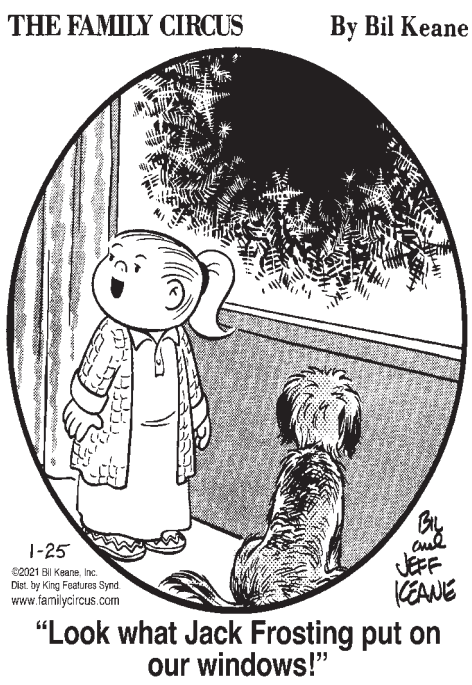
FORT KNOX


I WAS WALKING MONDO AND HE RAN OFF AFTER A BIRD.
OH NO.
1/25
YEAH AND HE JUST KEPT RUNNING.
IS HE LOST??
NO, I THINK HE'S STILL ON THE SAME ROAD.
GOOD! WHERE WAS HE HEADED?
ARKANSAS.
©2021 Paul Jon. Dist. by Washington Post Writers Group

PICKLES

YOU LIKE DIMPLES, DON'T YOU, EARL?
DIMPLES?
YES. YOU KNOW, LIKE DIMPLES IN CHEEKS OR CHINS.
YEAH, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I LIKE DIMPLES.
GOOD. BECAUSE I PUT A DIMPLE IN THE BUMPER OF YOUR STUDEBAKER.
1-25-21
©2021 Reuel Crane, dist. By Washington Post Writers Group

FAMILY CIRCUS



"Look what Jack Frosting put on our windows!"

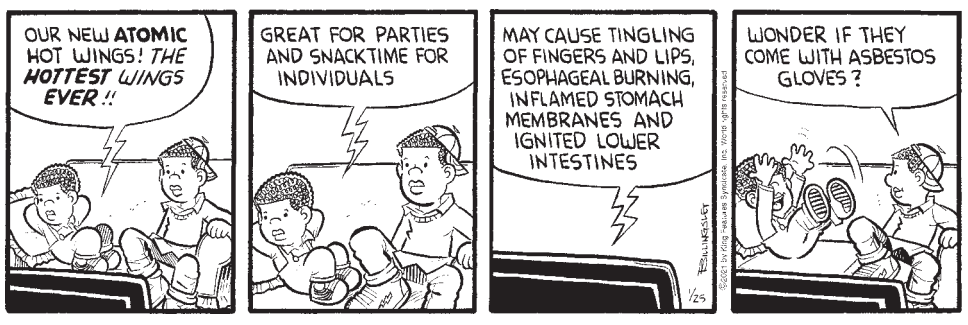
DENNIS THE MENACE

"MY DAD'S PLAYIN' GOLF TODAY...BUT DON'T WORRY...HE ALWAYS PRAYS WHILE HE PLAYS!"

BABY BLUES

WHAT ARE YOU LISTENING TO, MOM?
IT'S AN OLD TONY BENNETT ALBUM.
WHAT'S HE SINGING ABOUT?
LEAVING HIS HEART IN SAN FRANCISCO.
MOM'S INTO SOME PRETTY DARK STUFF.

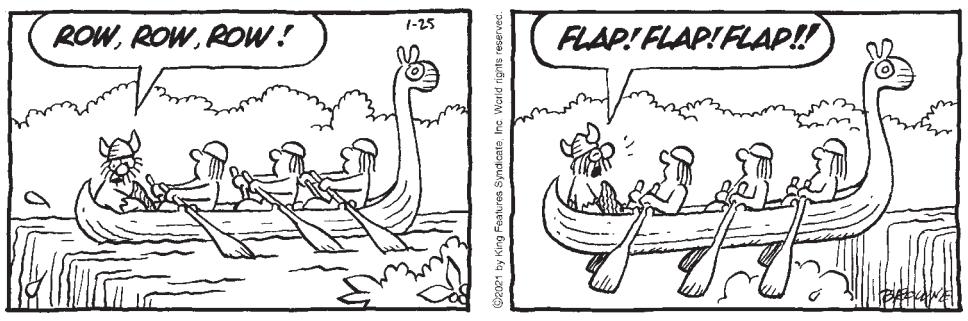
CURTIS


OUR NEW ATOMIC HOT WINGS! THE HOTTEST WINGS EVER !!
GREAT FOR PARTIES AND SNACKTIME FOR INDIVIDUALS
MAY CAUSE TINGLING OF FINGERS AND LIPS, ESOPHAGEAL BURNING, INFLAMED STOMACH MEMBRANES AND IGNITED LOWER INTESTINES
1/25
WONDER IF THEY COME WITH ASBESTOS GLOVES ?

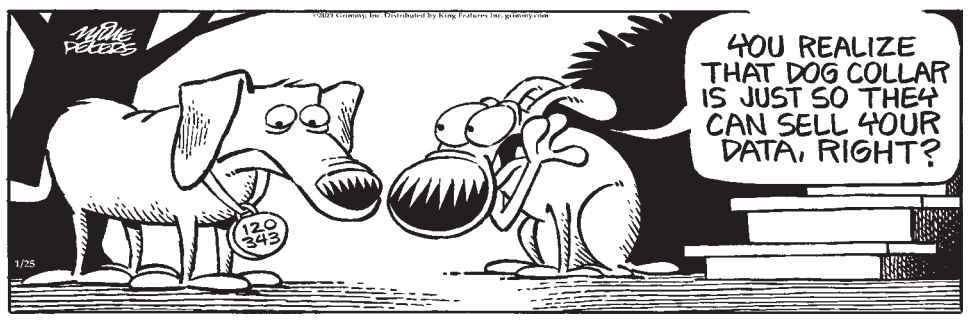
ZITS

WHAT THE HECK??
I DECIDED TO FOSTER A KITTEN! ISN'T SHE CUTE?
BE CAREFUL... SHE'S NOT USED TO BEING AROUND HUMANS.
ME EITHER... I GO TO HIGH SCHOOL.
SCOTT & BERGNON 1-25
zitscomics.com

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM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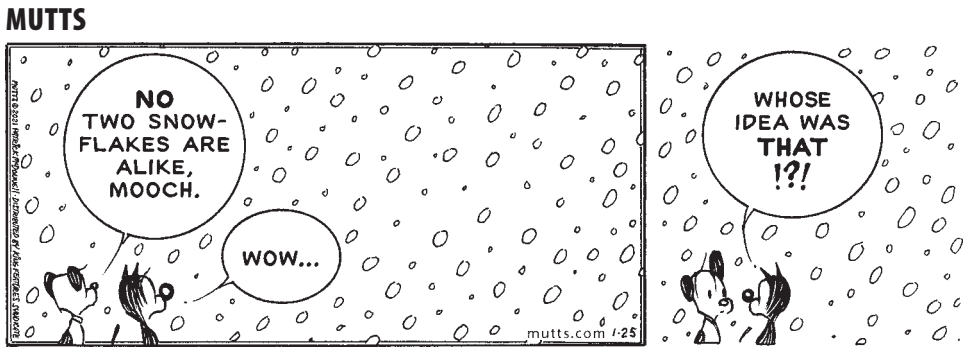
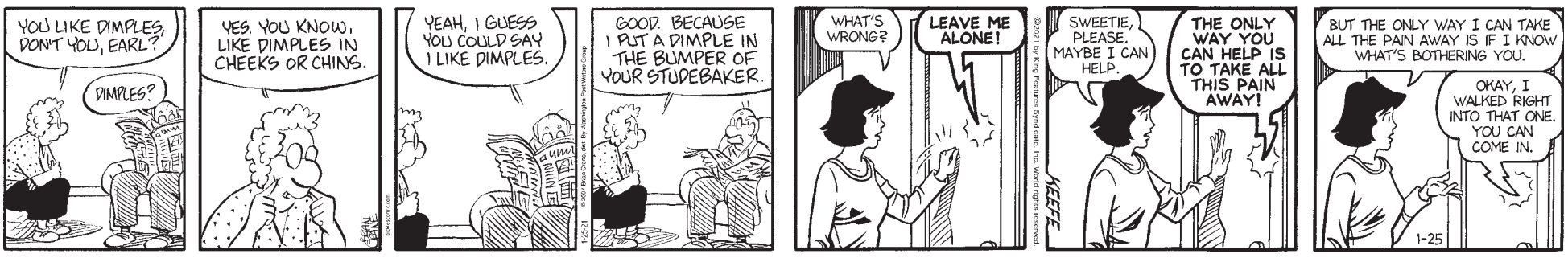
YOU REALIZE THAT DOG COLLAR IS JUST SO THEY CAN SELL YOUR DATA, RIGHT?
120 343
1/25

MUTTS



SALLY FORTH


YOU LIKE DIMPLES, DON'T YOU, EARL?
DIMPLES?
YES. YOU KNOW, LIKE DIMPLES IN CHEEKS OR CHINS.
YEAH, I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I LIKE DIMPLES.
GOOD. BECAUSE I PUT A DIMPLE IN THE BUMPER OF YOUR STUDEBAKER.
1-25-21
WHAT'S WRONG?
LEAVE ME ALONE!
SWEETIE, PLEASE. MAYBE I CAN HELP.
THE ONLY WAY YOU CAN HELP IS TO TAKE ALL THIS PAIN AWAY!
BUT THE ONLY WAY I CAN TAKE ALL THE PAIN AWAY IS IF I KNOW WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU.
OKAY, I WALKED RIGHT INTO THAT ONE. YOU CAN COME IN.
1-25
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The Herald-Palladium
DON'T MISS
THIS WEEKEND'S
ISSUE
Included in this Saturday's edition

BEETLE BAILEY

THE WAR GAMES WERE TOUGH TODAY, OTTO. I JUST WANT TO RELAX
GREG+MORT WALKER 1/26
I LOVE "CALL OF DUTY"
RAT-A-TAT-TAT
BOOM!
POW!
ARRGHH
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BLONDIE

WHAT KIND OF FORTUNE COOKIE IS THIS? "GET READY FOR A LOUSY DAY"
IT'S SOMETHING WE'RE TRYING OUT, MISFORTUNE COOKIES
"YOU SHOULD'VE STAYED IN BED"?!
SHEESH! I GET ENOUGH MISFORTUNE RIGHT HERE AT WORK!
1-26
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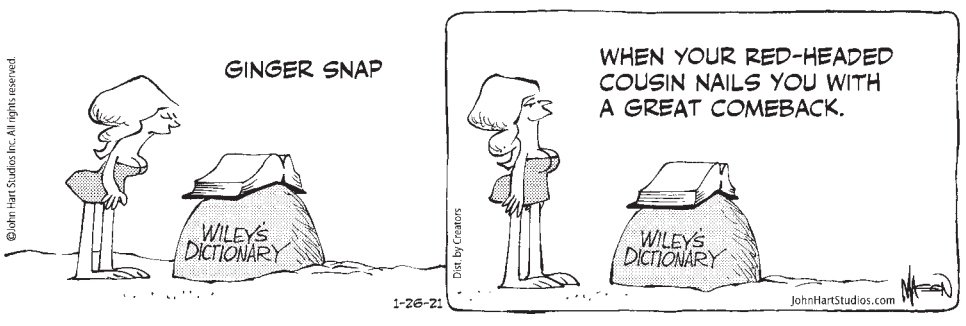
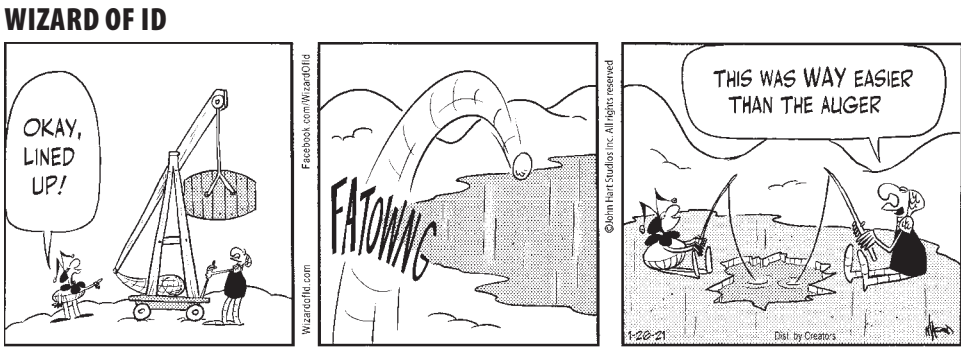
www.Blondie.com

HI & LOIS

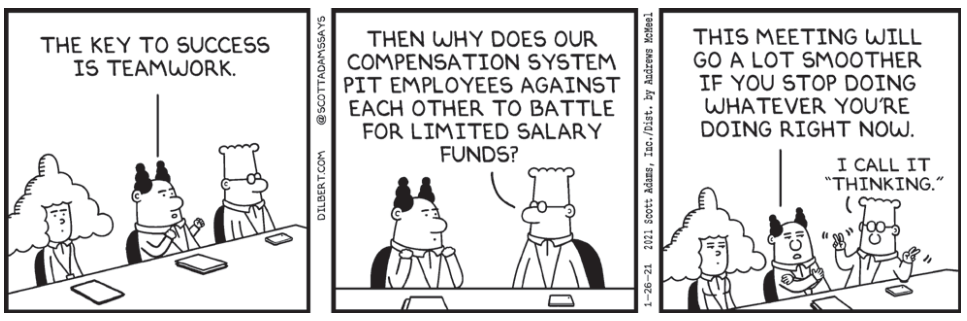
BC



WIZARD OF ID



DILBERT


THE KEY TO SUCCESS IS TEAMWORK.
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
THEN WHY DOES OUR COMPENSATION SYSTEM PIT EMPLOYEES AGAINST EACH OTHER TO BATTLE FOR LIMITED SALARY FUNDS?
1-26-21 2021 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel
THIS MEETING WILL GO A LOT SMOOTHER IF YOU STOP DOING WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING RIGHT NOW.
I CALL IT "THINKING."

GARFIELD

GARFIELD, DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO THIS PLATE OF DONUTS?
OOH! A GUESSING GAME!
JIM DAVIS 1-26
© 2021 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved
ABDUCTED BY ALIENS?! RAN AWAY TO JOIN THE CIRCUS?!
MAYBE THEY'RE PLOTTING A TAKEOVER WITH THE TATER TOTS
SOMETIMES I'M GLAD I CAN'T UNDERSTAND YOU
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication

FORT KNOX

HOW COULD YOU LOSE MY PRECIOUS MONDO??
I'M SORRY, GENERAL.
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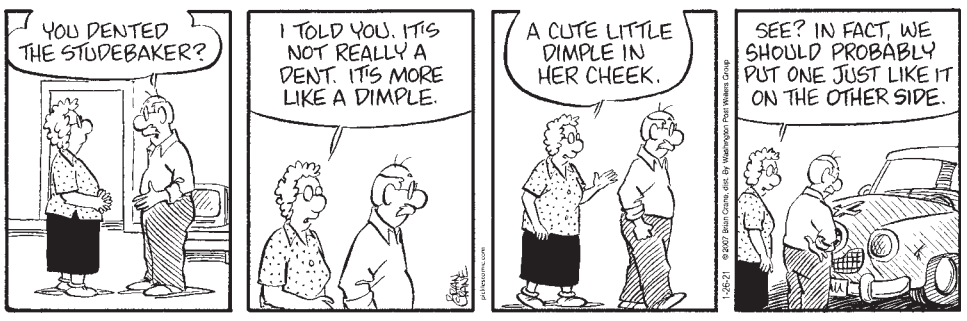
WE NEED TO FIND HIM.
1/26
WHAT SHOULD WE DO? DRIVE AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD?
NO, CALL THE NATIONAL GUARD

PICKLES


YOU DENTED THE STUDEBAKER?
I TOLD YOU. IT'S NOT REALLY A DENT. IT'S MORE LIKE A DIMPLE.
A CUTE LITTLE DIMPLE IN HER CHEEK.
SEE? IN FACT, WE SHOULD PROBABLY PUT ONE JUST LIKE IT ON THE OTHER SIDE.
1-26-21
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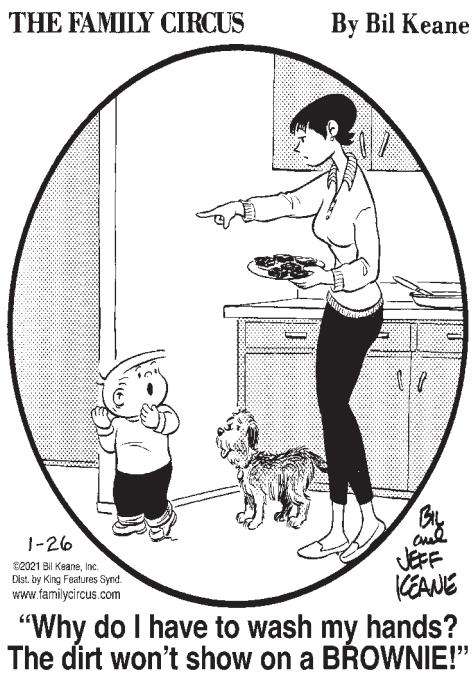
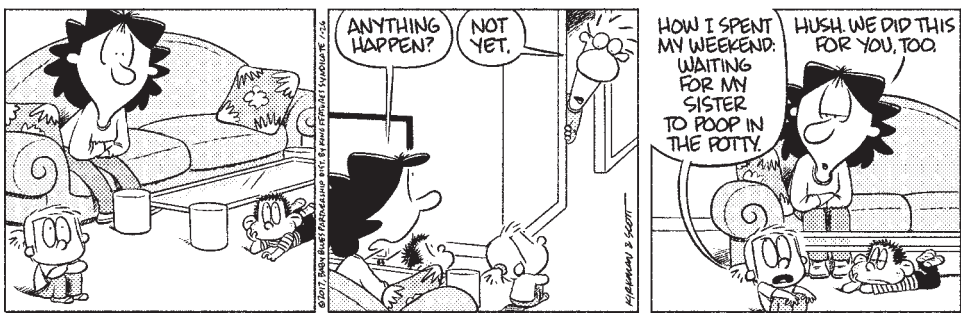
FAMILY CIRCUS


THE FAMILY CIRCUS
By Bil Keane
1-26
©2021 Bil Keane, Inc.
Dist. by King Features Synd.
www.familycircus.com
Bil and Jeff Keane
"Why do I have to wash my hands? The dirt won't show on a BROWNIE!"

DENNIS THE MENACE

Hank Ketcham
©2021 North America Synd.
1-26
"IT'S REALLY GEORGE WHO KEEPS THE SPARK IN OUR MARRIAGE...WHICH CAN BE HIGHLY FLAMMABLE AT TIMES."

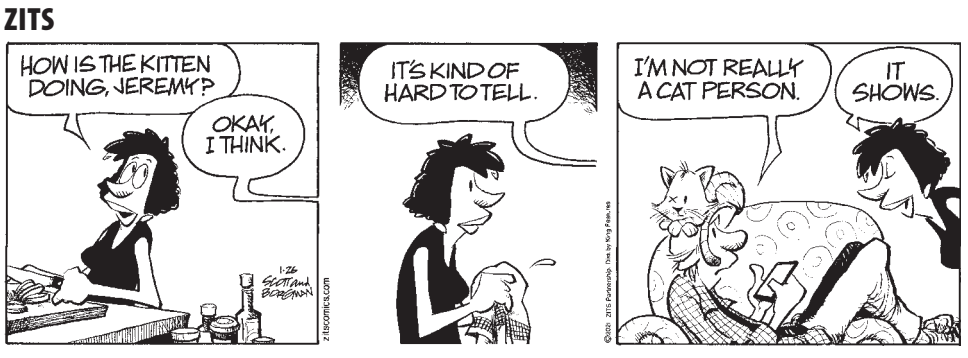
BABY BLUES



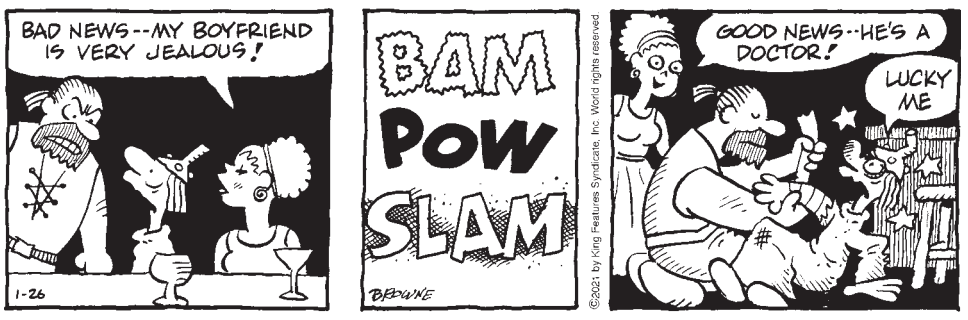
CURTIS

IT'S A SAGA ABOUT GOOD VERSUS EVIL
THAT'S SURPRISING
AW, YOU KNOW HOW THESE STORIES GO: GOOD ALWAYS WINS, EVIL ALWAYS LOSES
1-26
IT'S SURPRISING TO SEE YOU READING A BOOK WITHOUT PICTURES!

ZITS

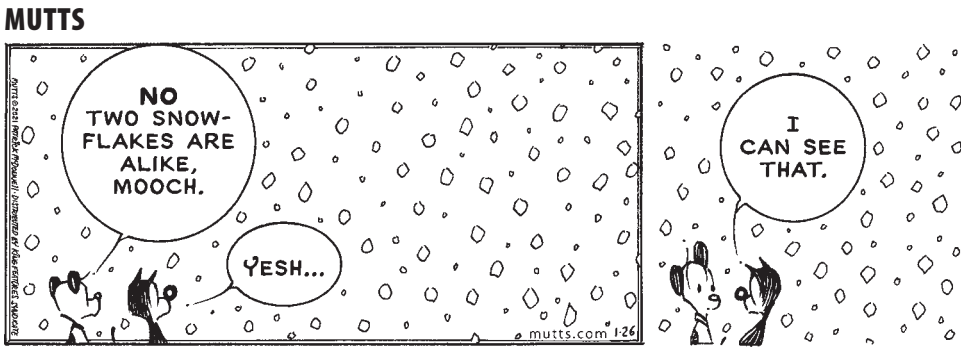

HOW IS THE KITTEN DOING, JEREMY?
OKAY, I THINK.
1-26 SCOTT AND BORGMAN
zitscomics.com
IT'S KIND OF HARD TO TELL.
I'M NOT REALLY A CAT PERSON.
IT SHOWS.

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

MUTTS



SALLY FORTH

SWEETIE, WHAT'S WRONG? TALK TO ME.
FAYE IS MOVING! HER MOM IS SELLING THE HOUSE AND THEY'RE MOVING!
KEEFE
AND THEN THAT'S IT! I'LL NEVER SEE HER AGAIN! WE'LL TALK LESS AND LESS UNTIL I NEVER HEAR FROM HER AGAIN!
AND YOU SAID 2021 WOULD BE BETTER THAN 2020!
ACTUALLY, I SAID 2021 COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE ANY WORSE THAN 2020, WHICH ADMITTEDLY DOESN'T HELP EITHER.
WHAT HAPPENS IN 2022?! DO WE ALL GROW REVERSE ANTLERS AND PIERCE OUR OWN BRAINS?!
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!
1-26
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Be a history explorer

The entire archive of The Herald-Palladium and its forerunner newspapers, dating back more than 150 years, is now available online in a text-searchable format

Use the archive to do serious genealogical research or simply to have fun reading about your ancestors.
Find old clippings about your birth or high school graduation.
Learn what happened in the world on the day you were born.

The Herald-Palladium

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The Evening New
EXTRA
Sniper's Gun Kills JFK In Dallas, Texas
St. Joseph Saturday Herald.
ST. JOSEPH DAILY PRESS
SHOOTS HER HUSBAND AND RESUMES IRONING
ST. JOSEPH HERALD-PRESS
WAR DECLARED!
HOUSE PASSES STATE OF WAR RESOLUTION
The Herald-Palladium
Terrorists strik
Washington, NY
Pentagon also hit by hijacked airplane, and another plane crashes in Pennsylvania

The Herald-Palladium CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Desk: 1-855-317-4292
Hours: Monday - Friday 8am-4pm EST
Saturday & Sunday 8am-11am EST

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS

La Porte, IN
One and two bedroom apartments available. Water included. No smoking and no pets.
Call for more information & application at: (801)860-6674

La PORTE

3 Bedroom Lower

Washer & dryer hook up.

Includes garage.

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$800 per month
Plus utilities

Call 219-872-4731

Michigan City, IN
Large Lower
2 Bdrm Apt
Appls, Water & Sani included
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Michigan City, IN

Unique Restored Large Victorian Two Bedroom Bi-Level Loft.

Hardwood floors, new appliances, ceiling fans, walk-in closets, off-street parking. Twenty foot Master Bedroom. $695.00 including heat and water. No Dogs.

The Firm Exchange, Inc. 219-363-3134.

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2 bedroom apartment.

Very nice & clean.
Central air.
With nice yard, very quiet neighborhood, $650 a month plus deposit. Water and sewer included. Renters responsible for Nipsco. No Pets. First month plus deposit due at signing.

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HOMES FOR RENT

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Nice 2 bedroom in Benton Harbor for rent.
269-471-9525

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

MONUMENTS/ CEMETERIES

For Sale.
Two Cemetery Spaces plus Companion Marker at North Shore Memory Gardens - Coloma.
Call 574-904-6873

LEGALS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL NOTICE

Miscellaneous

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EMPLOYMENT

ADMINISTRATIVE

JOB OPPORTUNITY MICHIGAN CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POSITION

Job Posting Date: January 19, 2021

The Michigan City Housing Authority is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Executive Director located in Michigan City, Indiana. The new Executive Director will lead a staff of (9) employees and oversee all PHA operations and programs including 171 Public Housing, 308 Housing Choice Voucher, Homeownership, as well as 19 units owned by an affiliated nonprofit.

This position requires experience in the administration of Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher program. Therefore, the ideal candidate should have at least (3) or more years of management experience in public housing, subsidized housing or similar organization and must have working knowledge of fiscal management and capability of working with officials, boards, funding agencies and people of various socio-economic backgrounds. Bachelor degree is required. A PHM is required or must be obtained within 24 months of being hired. A benefit package will be offered. Position is open until filled.

Applications are now being accepted. Please submit resumes with salary history and references to Michigan City Housing Authority Board of Commissioners - Chairman Milton Malone at 621 East Michigan Blvd, Michigan City, Indiana 46360

ACCOUNTING

JOB OPPORTUNITY with the MICHIGAN CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY Finance Manager

Job Posting Date: January 19, 2021

The Michigan City Housing Authority is seeking qualified candidates for the following position:

Finance Manager — Under the direction of the Executive Director, this position supervises, plans, and coordinates the activities and operations of the Finance Department. Position is responsible for coordinating all operational activities for accounting, auditing, and financial reporting. The duties below illustrate the various types of worked perform. The omission of specific statements regarding duties does not exclude them from position if the work is similar, related or a logical assignment in association with this position.

Duties
Supervise finance personnel. Supervisory duties include instructing, assigning, reviewing and planning work of others, monitoring standards; coordinating activities allocating personnel and recommending employee transfers, promotions, and salary increases as appropriate.

Assist in developing, Implementing and reviewing goals, objectives, policies, and priorities for Finance Department.

Coordinate all operational activities for accounting, auditing, financial reporting, contracting materials management functions in accordance with Housing policy and procedures.

Plan and schedule and assign task necessary to complete Single Audit Report in accordance with Housing Authority Standards and generally accepted accounting practices.

Develop system of internal controls that effectively documents the procedures and practices necessary for proper internal controls

Adhere to the confidentiality standards of the Privacy Act of 1974 {U.S.C. 552A} as amended

Must possess a valid Indiana driver's license. Previous Experience that includes progressively Knowledgeable and skilled governmental and /Non-profit accounting

Deadline: Submit resume with salary history and references to Michigan City Housing Authority, Interim Executive Director, 621 East Michigan Blvd, Michigan City, IN 46360 open until filled. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Sharon Hutton at 219-872-7287.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, creed, color or national origin.

GENERAL HELP

MICHIGAN CITY

1.) Looking for Sewing Machine Operators. Experience preferred. Will train.

2.) Looking for a person to assemble filters, turn bags, plus other duties.

3.) Looking for a person to spread material, unload trucks, etc. Some heavy lifting.

F/T, full benefit pkg.

Apply in person:
Filtration Plus
4208 N. 900 W.
(S. Woodland Ave.)
Michigan City, IN

(Please, no phone calls)

New Troy, MI
LEAD CNC/ MACHINE OPERATOR position is available at our organization. Please call the office at 269-426-3361 for information on the position.

JOB OPPORTUNITY with the MICHIGAN CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY Maintenance Technician (Full-Time)

Job Posting Date: January 19, 2021

The Michigan City Housing Authority is seeking qualified candidates for the following position:

Senior Maintenance Technician - This is the advanced journey level in the Maintenance Technician job series. Positions at this level perform the most complex maintenance duties and are expected to perform the full range of building maintenance tasks with minimal direction. Work involves maintaining gas furnaces and heaters and air conditioners, repair and replacement of items such as windows, doors, roofs, gutters, cabinets, walls, ceilings, toilets, faucets, water lines, electrical outlets, and light fixtures. The Senior Maintenance Technician may perform preventive maintenance tasks, as needed. Work is performed under general supervision of the Maintenance Supervisor.

Must possess a valid Indiana driver's license.

Deadline: Submit resumes with salary history and references to Michigan City Housing Authority, Interim Executive Director, 621 Bast Michigan Blvd, Michigan City, IN 46360 open until filled. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Sharon Hutton at 219-872-7287.

All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, creed, color or national origin.

The Town of Trail Creek is seeking applications for a part time street employee. The candidate will work through out the week and some weekend hours, in addition to possibly being on call for a tree down or during the winter months. The candidate must have the following skills and knowledge to be eligible:
Perform routine general maintenance, operate and utilize all town equipment as directed by the street commissioner. Assist in leaf pickup , patching potholes, storm maintenance and other misc. jobs given by the street commissioner. Must have high diploma, valid drivers license and must be able to lift or carry 50lbs.
Please contact the street commissioner, Chris Ott to set up a time to get an application at 219-872-4780

People DO Read Small Ads. You Did!

GENERAL HELP

PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER CITY OF ST. JOSEPH

The City of St. Joseph is accepting resumes for the position of Public Safety Officer. Applicants must possess an Associate's Degree, Criminal Justice preferred, MCOLES certified or certifiable and Firefighter I & II desired. Please send cover letter and resume with three references to City of St. Joseph, Personnel Department, 700 Broad Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085, by Monday, February 5, 2021 or to lmoore@sjcity.com. Application and full job description is also available online at www.sjcity.com.

FINANCIAL

GARAGE /ESTATE SALES

MERCHANDISE

WANTED TO RENT/ BUY/TRADE

Benton Harbor, MI
3 Pillars Music is looking to buy record albums from 1970s to present, older guitars and comic books.
Please contact Tom at 269-313-7001 or 3pillarsmusic@gmail.com

BUYING JUNK CARS & TRUCKS

Small Cars - $250
Medium Cars - $350
Large Vehicles - $450
Call Larry at (269)326-0510
Or Scott at (269)208-9208

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Must be able to communicate effectively and professionally.

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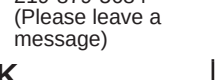
Must have reliable transportation.

Email your resume to Angelique: apetersen@thehp.com

No Calls Please!

WANTED TO RENT/ BUY/TRADE



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Or Scott at (269)208-9208

WANTED antique toys, advertising items, military items, or other vintage items.
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(Ask for Joe)

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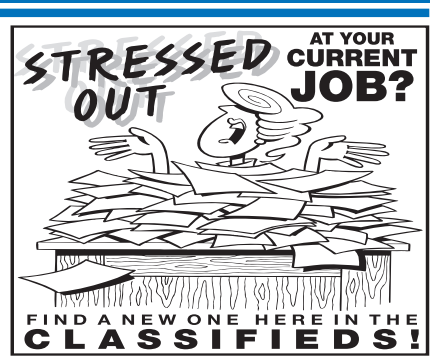
TRUCKS FOR SALE

Michigan City, IN
2000 Chevy Suburban with 7' 6" nice Boss Plow Truck has some rust but still plowing with it today.
219-879-5684
(Please leave a message)



HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

Let your creative imagination take charge, and you'll come up with ideas that will improve your living space, relationships and outlook. Listen to suggestions, mull over your intentions and pursue your goals with passion, integrity and the desire to make your life better. A change of pace will be enlightening.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Refuse to let negativity set in, regardless of what those around you do or say. Keep your emotions under control, and set a standard for others. An optimistic attitude will help you attract supporters.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Make changes at home to suit your needs. Feeling comfortable encourage you to do things that make you happy. Reach out to someone who makes a difference in your life. Romance is in the stars.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Be conscious of what's happening around you. Look for solutions that are fair and practical. Learn from mistakes, and make adjustments that will help you achieve the success you desire.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Keep things simple. Don't alter your life because of what someone else does. Use your imagination to come up with a plan that will utilize your skills. Take ownership of your life and decisions.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Seek refuge in what you know and what you can do, not in what others want. Manage your money well, and don't make donations you cannot afford. Take better care of yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Put more thought into how you do a job or take care of your responsibilities. Taking a different approach will draw the attention of someone influential. Don't be afraid to ask direct questions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Keep your secrets to yourself. Someone will use personal information against you if you are too trusting. Look for ways to stabilize your life; focus on saving and personal growth.

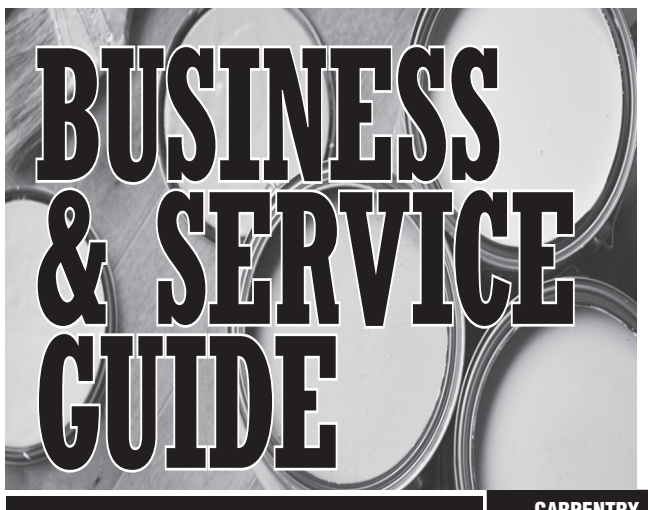
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You'll get help when needed. A friendly gesture will bring high returns. Fitness, self-improvement and quality time with someone special are favored. Make a plan and get moving.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Emotions will surface if you mix business with pleasure. Choose your words carefully, and direct your energy into something constructive. Use your imagination.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Do your own thing. Refuse to let anyone draw you into an impossible or confounding situation. Soul-searching will lead to self-improvement and greater confidence. Romance will enhance your life.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) A change at home may be upsetting, but, in the end, you'll adjust. It's time to embrace new beginnings and discard what no longer works for you. A change of scenery will be enlightening.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) The changes you make should result in greater comfort for you and your loved ones. Look over your options and weigh the pros and cons. Ask for the approval of anyone affected by what you do.



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